MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Blind River District

LAND USE GUIDELINES

Ontario

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Hon. Alan W. Pope
Minister

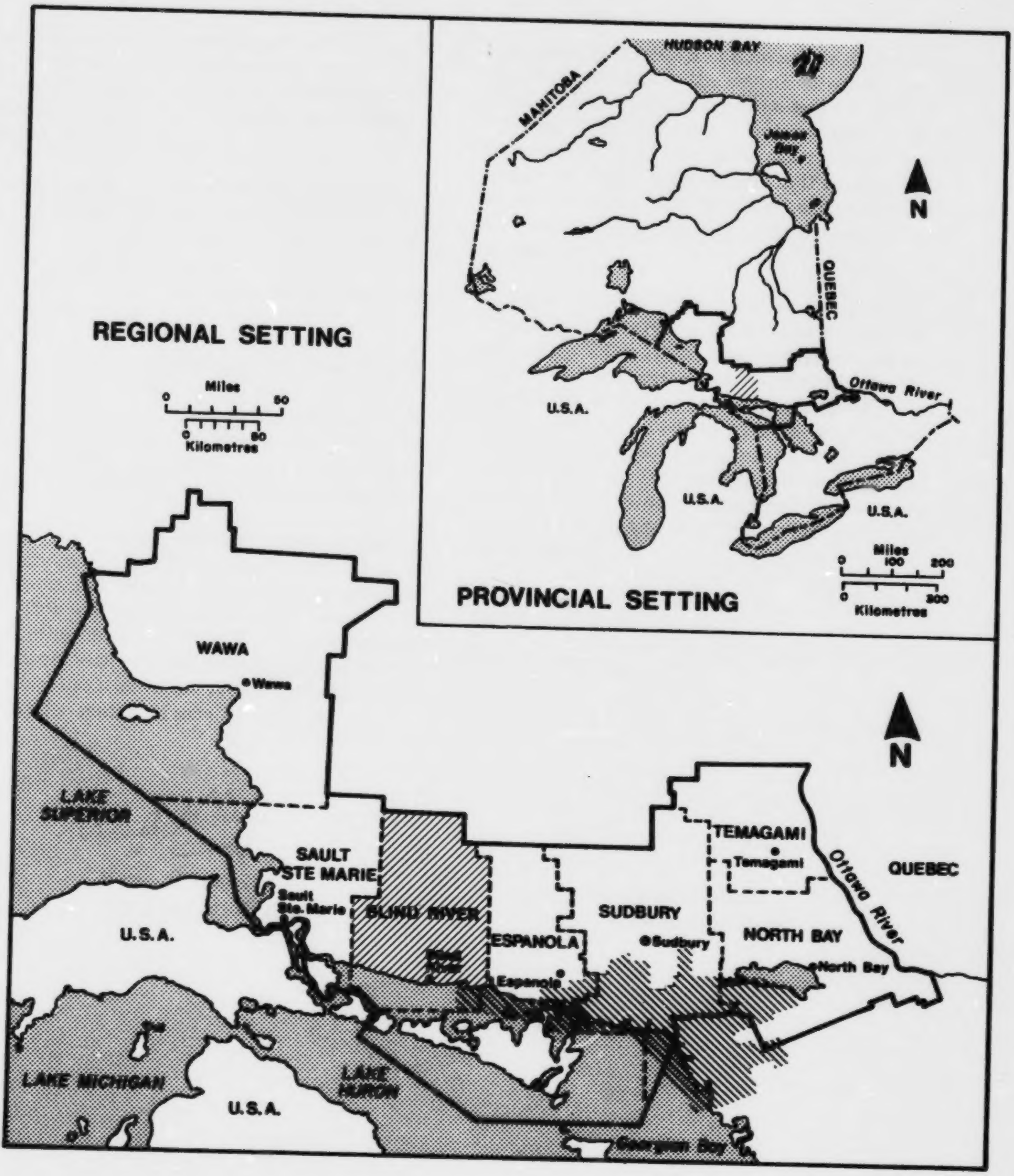
W. T. Foster
Deputy Minister

1983

MAP 1

PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL SETTING OF BLIND RIVER DISTRICT

- ▨ Blind River District
- --- District Administrative Boundary
- — Northeastern Region Administrative Boundary
- -·- Provincial Boundary
- --- International Boundary
- ▨ North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve


HUDSON BAY
MANITOBA
James Bay
N
QUEBEC
U.S.A.
Ottawa River
U.S.A.
U.S.A.
PROVINCIAL SETTING
Miles
0 100 200
0 300
Kilometres
REGIONAL SETTING
Miles
0 50
0 80
Kilometres
N
WAWA
Wawa
LAKE SUPERIOR
SAULT STE MARIE
Sault Ste. Marie
BLIND RIVER
Blind River
ESPANOLA
Espanola
SUDBURY
Sudbury
TEMAGAMI
Temagami
NORTH BAY
North Bay
QUEBEC
Ottawa River
U.S.A.
LAKE MICHIGAN
U.S.A.
LAKE HURON
Georgian Bay

FOREWORD

The Ministry of Natural Resources has a primary responsibility for the management of the Province's natural resources, in particular those related to resource development and outdoor recreation.

This document will serve as a design for integrated resource development in the Blind River District. It is also intended to provide others with an understanding of the Ministry's mandate and its programs which rely on both Crown and private lands for success.

To ensure an integrated approach the *Blind River District Land Use Guidelines* identify where and in what manner the Ministry may use Crown land, and to what extent it may wish to suggest uses of private land, in working towards the achievement of Ministry objectives.

For Crown land the Ministry must consider the land and water requirements for both its own programs and those of other government agencies. This will require ongoing liaison with these other agencies. The Ministry will continue to consult with private landowners and local municipalities since the latter have the responsibility for control of private land use.

The program targets and approaches outlined in this document follow the overall direction outlined in the Ministry's *Northeastern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan*. The *Land Use Guidelines* may serve as one of the sources of information for Ministry involvement in the planning process of municipalities and other agencies. It is recognized, however, that this document has no legal status.

Planning is a continuous process and must be responsive to changing needs, information and technology. Thus the targets and strategies presented in this document are subject to revision based on such factors as changes in government policy, new or refined resource information, and significant changes to land use in other planning documents. To accommodate changes the *Land Use Guidelines* will normally be reviewed every ten years and will involve full public consultation.

Comments may be addressed to the District Manager at any time.

Regional Director
Northeastern Region

R. A. Lenard

District Manager
Blind River District

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A: district context

The Blind River District is situated approximately midway between Sault Ste. Marie and Espanola along the North Channel of Lake Huron. The District is approximately 100 kilometres from east to west and spans 135 kilometres north to south, and is one of seven districts comprising the Ministry's Northeastern Administrative Region.

The District's total area of 11,225 square kilometres is made up of 8,354 square kilometres of land and 2,871 square kilometres of water. The waters of the North Channel of Lake Huron comprise 1,948 square kilometres or 68 percent of the District's surface water total.

The continental climate of the District is moderated somewhat by the effects of the Great Lakes and Hudson Bay. January mean temperatures average -11°C with the July mean temperatures averaging 19°C. Precipitation is well distributed throughout the year, averaging 81 cm. Winter snowfalls average 203 cm., with slightly higher snowfall amounts occurring in the northwest, due to the effects of Lake Superior. The growing season is approximately 175 days.

Continental glaciation has played a major role in modifying the landscape. Shallow soils predominate the broken uplands of the central portion of the District. The southwest contains deep sand and clay plains, a result of post-glacial lake and river action. In other portions of the District, deeper soils are most often found along well defined river valleys and alluvial plains.

The Mississagi River and its tributaries provide drainage for all but a small portion of the District. Four hydro-electric generating stations - Red Rock, Wells, Rayner and Aubrey Falls - are situated on the river, with artificial headponds at Red Rock Lake, Tunnel Lake, Aubrey Lake and Rocky Island Lake. The Thessalon River, Blind River and Serpent River provide the remaining drainage for the District.

This part of Ontario is comprised of transitional forests of the Boreal Forest Region and the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Forest Region. The southern forests of maple, yellow birch, oak and hemlock are replaced towards the north by white and red pine, white birch, white spruce and poplar. Other sites contain balsam, black spruce and jackpine, depending on slope, drainage and soil types.

The Precambrian Shield dominates the District's geology, with only the southernmost islands in the North Channel containing rocks of more recent age. The southern portion has a complex geology of metasedimentary rocks and igneous intrusions; the northern portion consists primarily of granites and other igneous rocks.

The historical development of this area began with the arrival of the fur traders in the 1600's. The Mississagi River became a popular water route inland with the two trading companies of the time - the Northwest Company and the Hudson Bay Company - maintaining trading posts at several locations along the river. In the 19th century, the western part of the District was settled and agriculture became established. Copper and gold mines established in the Bruce Mines area around this time brought in additional settlers, and a number of area sawmills went into production to provide the mines with timbers and other construction material.

The Mississagi River became a significant logging transportation route feeding the sawmills along the North Channel. The Blind River operation became known for a time as the largest white pine sawmill east of the Rockies. A massive forest fire in 1948 virtually wiped out the white pine industry, and the Blind River operation was closed down in the late 1960's.

In the middle 1950's, uranium was discovered east of Blind River. Subsequent staking operations led to the development of the mines in Elliot Lake which enjoyed a short lived success supplying American markets. The recent upsurge in nuclear fired electrical generating plants has led to a resurgence of mining activity in Elliot Lake.

The present population of the District is over 30,000. The Town of Elliot Lake is the major urban centre with a population estimated at near 20,000. Blind River, Thessalon and Iron Bridge are secondary centres, with the remaining population distributed in smaller hamlets and rural areas throughout the southern portion of the District.

The District is accessed by Highways 17 and 129, giving road access to Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Chapleau. A spur line of the Canadian Pacific Railway traverses the District in an east-west direction.

The major economic activities in the District include mining, tourism, forestry and associated industries. The uranium mines in Elliot Lake are the major employer, with the Town of Elliot Lake rapidly expanding to meet the housing requirements of a growing mining population. The recently completed Eldorado Uranium Refinery in Blind River further emphasizes the significant role the uranium industry plays in this portion of the Province.

The diverse forests of the District provide local and distant mills with raw wood for processing into a variety of materials, and also support a large proportion of the District workforce in non-mining areas. Access roads constructed to transport timber from the forests also provide public access to the District's varied recreational resources.

The District contains significant recreational resources. Hunting for deer and moose, and angling, particularly for lake trout, provide economic returns to the commercial sector throughout the District. Private cottaging and commercial recreational facilities are established on most of the larger lakes, especially in the southern part of the District.

B: terms of reference

The *Land Use Guidelines* relate the policies of the *Northeastern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan* to the Blind River District by identifying the specific lands and waters necessary to achieve the Ministry's program targets.

The document will identify land use areas with detailed management guidelines. These guidelines will outline how the Ministry proposes to use public land and would like to influence the use of private land to achieve its resource objectives and targets.

The *Land Use Guidelines* indicate what the Ministry of Natural Resources wishes to achieve on Crown land and influence on private land and the lands of other agencies, such as conservation authorities, in order to achieve Ministry objectives. The document has no legal status. The planning control of private land in organized municipalities is exercised through municipal planning documents which are prepared in accordance with, and under the authority of, the *Planning Act* which is administered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Within the Blind River District, six municipal planning areas presently have planning documents (official plans and/or zoning by-laws) in place or under preparation. These include the Township of Thessalon, Town of Thessalon, Iron Bridge Planning Area, Blind River and Suburban Planning Area, Township of the North Shore and the Town of Elliot Lake. In addition, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has imposed a zoning order on the unorganized portions of four townships surrounding the Town of Blind River. Where possible, the *Land Use Guidelines* recognize the provisions and policies of these documents.

There will be occasions, however, when the Ministry will feel that certain land uses or proposed developments on private land, while in conformity with municipal planning documents, will have undesirable impacts on Ministry programs or interests. In such situations, the Ministry will attempt to resolve the problem through discussions with the proponents, the municipality and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. If the Ministry is not satisfied with the results of the negotiations, further action may be taken in accordance with Ministry policy and the procedures provided for in the *Planning Act* and in accordance with MNR policy.

The Ministry of Natural Resources recognizes that private landowners, other government agencies, municipalities, conservation authorities and interest groups are key participants in any effort to achieve effective and integrated resource management. The Ministry will continue to work with these groups to ensure that adequate consideration is given to all interests prior to making resource management decisions. Emphasis will continue to be placed on liaison with municipalities through the Ministry's plan input and review program, to ensure that natural resource values are considered in local planning documents.

In the event of conflict between previously approved Ministry land use plans affecting the Blind River District and the 1983 approved *Blind River District Land Use Guidelines*, the latter will normally apply.

Of special interest is the *General Land Use Plan for the North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve*. The North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve is a part of Ontario which has received special status due to its recreational potential and strategic location relative to centres of population. The Reserve spans parts of five Ministry of Natural Resources administrative districts (see map 1). The *North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve Act* which established the Reserve in 1963 directed the Minister to formulate a land use plan for the public lands which have potential for recreation. In 1971, the Minister tabled a plan for the Reserve which has been in effect to the present time. The original *Reserve Plan* was developed on the general concept that the recreational use of Crown land would normally be given preference over other uses, but where other uses would not be excluded, except for very special cases.

The *Land Use Guidelines* have been developed in keeping with the intent and purpose of the *Act*. Although the main concepts of the original *Reserve Plan* have been maintained, some alterations have been made in the *Land Use Guidelines* to accommodate changed conditions. The document has given special recognition to the unique features of the Reserve, and will now be the guiding document for carrying out the intent of the *Act*. The *Act* which created the Reserve will remain in effect to guide future review and revisions of the *Land Use Guidelines*.

In the future, the *Land Use Guidelines* may be modified to reflect new information and changing circumstances.

C: planning process

The *Blind River District Land Use Guidelines* have been developed through a number of phases which are collectively known as the planning process.

Public involvement in the development of the *Land Use Guidelines* has occurred throughout the planning process. This involvement began with initial stages of preparation of the Ministry's *Northeastern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan* in March 1978 and increased locally as the Ministry's planning process concentrated on District land use planning.

A background information document for the Blind River District was prepared and circulated for public comment in 1978. This document discussed the various natural resources of the District, their historical use, present utilization and their capability for future consideration. The public was requested to comment on the accuracy of the information contained in the document, to provide any additional knowledge they had of the planning area and to raise problems or issues which they felt should be addressed during the planning process.

In 1982, the District prepared a *Proposed Policy and Planning Options* document which discussed proposed policies pertaining to the management of the natural resources under the direct control or influence of the Ministry and outlined two planning options for the Blind River District. Open houses were held in June of 1982 to explain the policy proposals and planning options outlined in the document and to obtain public comment. Many verbal and written comments resulted from the open house presentations and circulation of the document. All public input has been recorded, acknowledged where necessary, analysed, evaluated and filed.

Based on the analysis and evaluation of this public input, a draft of the *Land Use Guidelines* was prepared. The Minister personally discussed the draft *Land Use Guidelines* with the District Manager and reviewed the District summary and analysis of public input. A further internal review by the Ministry has resulted in additional modification to the document.

Copies of all comments received during the planning process are available for public viewing in the District Office, the Ministry's main office public reading room and the Legislative Library at Queen's Park. Additional details regarding the public consultation program can be found in appendix A.

D: target assignment

The *Land Use Guidelines* describe the manner in which the Ministry will utilize the land and water resources within the Blind River District to achieve the targets assigned from the *Northeastern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan*. The targets were determined through consideration of the local and Provincial needs and the resource potential for each of the programs carried out by the Ministry. They were initially tested in the District individually through an analysis of resource potential. To ensure proper integration of resource management activity, they were then tested collectively. This process resulted in the identification of areas of potential land use conflicts. These conflicts were ultimately resolved either through target adjustment or the determination of management guidelines that would ensure appropriate integration of land use activities.

To demonstrate how the targets might be achieved collectively and in an integrated fashion within the District, planning options were developed and the public consulted. The primary guideline in the development of planning options was to ensure that all targets could be achieved; options which could not achieve all program targets were considered unacceptable and were not included in the review process.

Details on target achievement are found in Section II: C.12.

E: summary of planning options

In the Blind River District, two planning options were prepared and presented to the public in the *Proposed Policy and Planning Options* document. Both options were similar. Previous commitments to resource industries, commercial tourist operators and the public, coupled with the established land ownership pattern and the commitment to prepare options which met all assigned resource targets, resulted in limited flexibility for considering drastically different planning options. The final result of the option preparation phase indicated that the greatest degree of flexibility was in the approach to recreation and fisheries management, with little flexibility in other program areas.

Both options identified land and water areas necessary for the direct achievement of targets, where little or no alternative areas were available. Thus, both plans identify areas for agriculture, aggregate, urban uses, winter deer habitat, commercial tourism development, provincial parks; forestry and Indian Reserves. Treatment of remaining areas differed in the type and intensity of uses proposed, primarily in the emphasis placed on recreation and fisheries management.

1. OPTION A

This option placed emphasis on the provision of recreational opportunities in the southern portion of the District; broad areas around Mississagi Provincial Park, the Town of Elliot Lake and the upper Thessalon River were identified. In the northern portion of the District resource management efforts would emphasize forestry. The central portion of the Mississagi River was identified to accommodate development for hydro-electric generation. The offshore area in the North Channel of Lake Huron east of Blind River (including a portion of the North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve) would be managed for recreational uses associated with yachting and boating. Development controls would be more strict than those included in the existing land use plan for the Reserve.

The closure of four forest access roads reduced the public's ability to enjoy some accessible recreational opportunities. However, adequate accessible opportunities are available elsewhere in the District. In some areas proposed for general recreational uses, the forest industry may have been negatively affected due to road construction and seasonal harvesting restrictions.

Strict development controls on the North Channel would prohibit commercial tourism development in an area having potential for additional facilities. However, the protection of the valuable recreational resources of this area was considered necessary for continued pleasure boating and yachting.

2. OPTION B

This option identified more specifically sites of recreational potential, and provided more opportunity for protection and expansion within the forestry and tourism sectors. The central portion of the Mississagi River was identified for recreational use, ignoring any potential for development by Ontario Hydro. Development on the North Channel would be permitted to the level specified in the *General Land Use Plan for the North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve*. The northern portion of the District was given more emphasis towards protection of outpost camp facilities. Only two forest access roads were proposed for closure to public travel, opening up previously inaccessible areas for public use.

Generally there was less emphasis in Option B towards recreation. Such activities were permitted in most parts of the District, but only specific sites having existing uses were identified. Because of the less specific nature of many management areas, Ministry managers would be required to rely more heavily on interpretation of policy in evaluating future land use proposals.

F: response to planning options

The *Proposed Policy and Planning Options* document was released for public review in June of 1982. A variety of techniques were used to publicize the planning program and numerous submissions regarding the planning proposals were received during the review period which ended on July 17, 1982. Details on the extent of public involvement are included in appendix A.

Generally, the key issues identified by the public included the following:

- more cottaging opportunities should be made available for District residents, particularly in the Elliot Lake area;
- the free use of Crown lands for camping, particularly by non-residents should not be permitted in areas where unfair competition with tourism facilities results;
- better protection of trail systems is required;
- better camping facilities are needed at access points to provide additional recreational opportunities;
- forest reserves must be available for logging, subject to harvesting guidelines;
- more emphasis required in forest management concerning regeneration, management and enforcement;
- commercial fishing industry on the North Channel should be better regulated;
- more stocking and more winter angling closures are required to improve the District fisheries;
- too much emphasis is placed on lake trout when additional warm water fisheries are needed;
- moose and deer seasons should be closed to allow populations to recover from previous over-exploitation;
- insufficient data is available on which to base the black bear policy;
- better rehabilitation of exhausted gravel pits is needed for aesthetic and safety reasons;
- there is a need to consider resource extraction as a permitted use within provincial parks;
- the Mississagi Delta proposed candidate park, if developed, will negatively affect established land uses and reduce the existing recreational value of the area;
- better justification is needed for the proposed reductions in size of the Aubrey Falls and Mississagi park reserves;
- better assurance needed that the public will have an opportunity to review Ministry road construction proposals;
- the forest and tourism industry prefer additional road closures, while the general public favours uncontrolled use on all roads;
- the document should show more support to the tourism industry;
- a discussion of the acid rain problem is required; and,
- further hydro-electric development on the Mississagi River must be stopped.

Additional detail on public input is included in appendix A.

With few exceptions, public response was directed more towards the resource policies, than the management area discussions.

Revisions to a number of the resource strategies have been undertaken as a result of the public's input, and are incorporated into the final document.

Although there was a distinct trend favouring Option A over Option B, certain aspects of Option B were consistently recommended for inclusion in the final document by the public. There was an apparent preference for the manner in which the central Mississagi River, the northeast portion of the District and the Bark Lake area were addressed in Option B. These have been included in the *Land Use Guidelines*. In addition, a number of management areas were realigned slightly to be consistent with adjacent administrative Districts of the Ministry.

The land use activities for the management areas have been revised to accommodate a number of recommendations submitted by the public and to provide more detail regarding the levels and types of uses proposed.

As a result of the public input and associated analysis, the Ministry has developed a set of guidelines for the Blind River District which attempts to:

- maintain the current and anticipated future levels of use for the resource extractive industries such as forestry, mining, aggregate extraction and commercial fishing;
- provide recognition and protection of areas within the District where commercial tourism is the primary use;
- provide a mix of recreational opportunities for residents and tourists, based on existing use patterns and anticipated future activities; and,
- maintain or improve fisheries and wildlife resources through the allocation of land and water areas and the management of habitat resources in selected portions of the District.

The *Blind River District Land Use Guidelines* accommodate the resource extraction industries in a number of ways. A large portion of the District has been identified for primary use by the forest industry. Few restrictions or conditions have been imposed on the operations of the industry in this area. In most instances, the access roads policy and modified management area (MMA) policy ensure that potential conflicts with other users are minimized.

The majority of the District is open to staking out, and the major mining area, north of the Town of Elliot Lake, has been identified as a separate area, where mining operations are the primary use. Where new mining developments arise within the District, the Ministry will encourage the industry to consider all potential environmental effects in their development plans.

Major aggregate deposits near demand centres have been identified as separate areas in the document. These deposits are critical to meeting committed and anticipated demands and will be managed solely for aggregate production. In other portions of the District, aggregate will generally be readily available, depending on environmental conditions and municipal regulations.

The commercial fishing industry will be the primary user for a large portion of the North Channel. Certain areas where commercial fishing operations are restricted have been identified. On inland lakes, commercial fishing, including baitfish operations, may be considered on a case by case basis.

Commercial tourism is one of the major industries in the District. As one means of supporting the industry, several areas have been identified where commercial tourism will be a primary use. The Kirkpatrick Lake area and the Wakomata/Tunnel Lake area are major tourist areas which have been identified. In the portion of the District north of Rocky Island Lake, commercial outpost camps will be protected through specific guidelines identified in the document. Additional outpost camp sites are identified on selected lakes; thirteen existing outpost camps, located on high quality lake trout lakes, will be phased out over the long term. Additional lodges may be developed in certain areas of the District, where resource surpluses exist.

The document provides a broad mix of recreational opportunities for residents and tourists. Three candidate provincial parks have been evaluated and recommended for park status. These include the extension to Mississagi Provincial Park, the Aubrey Falls park candidate and the Mississagi Delta park candidate.

Crown land recreation has been accommodated in a number of areas. The North Channel of Lake Huron east of the Town of Blind River will be managed for yachting, boating and associated uses, with no land disposition or structural developments permitted. Areas around Mississagi Provincial Park will provide some back-country and road accessible recreational opportunities. Scenic travel corridors, along the Little White River and Mississagi River will be protected. Crown land recreational opportunities will continue to be available throughout the District with few restrictions for Ontario residents.

The Ministry has reviewed the principles of the *Land Use Guidelines* with the *North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve Act* and the strategies contained in the *Reserve Plan*. It has been determined that the principles of the *Act* are reflected in these *Land Use Guidelines*, and that the recreational values of the Reserve are protected. Special recognition has been given to certain recreational features of the Reserve, such as yachting and small craft harbours.

The *Land Use Guidelines* discuss substantial increases in the size of District deer and moose herds. Certain habitat areas have been defined and identified, where specific habitat management programs will be implemented. Forest operations will play a major role in enhancing wildlife habitat.

Fisheries habitat will be maintained through a variety of techniques. Restrictions on land disposition, forestry and development on prime lake trout lakes are outlined. The MMA policy will provide further direction to Ministry resource managers in protecting important spawning and habitat areas. The District is committed to improving warm water fisheries, where appropriate.

The *Land Use Guidelines* developed by the District meet all program targets assigned from the *Northeastern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan*.

Details on the specifics of the *Land Use Guidelines* are found in Section II.

A: introduction

The *Blind River District Land Use Guidelines* indicate how the land and water resources within the District are to be utilized in the achievement of the resource program objectives assigned to the District through the *Northeastern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan*. In addition, this section indicates the general and particular resource policies that will guide program development, details recommended locations for carrying out specific activities and general operating guidelines for each. For a complete understanding of the *Land Use Guidelines*, Sections II B, II C, and II D and the area designation map must be read and used in conjunction with each other.

B: general policies

The statements contained in this section represent the overall general policies regarding the administration of public lands and natural resources by the Ministry of Natural Resources in northeastern Ontario. These have been summarized largely from the *Northeastern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan*.

1. GENERAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Ministry plans will promote orderly development, balance and future flexibility.

Orderly development indicates that development should be managed and should proceed within a framework. Uncontrolled development, because of its ad hoc nature, leads to inconsistency, conflict and duplication of effort and cost.

Balance indicates that different kinds and intensities of development must be allowed to occur within a planning area. Balance also implies that minority as well as majority interests shall be served.

Future flexibility indicates that some resource potential should be held in reserve in order to allow for future options and accommodate change. It indicates that it may not be desirable to develop all resources to full potential right now. This will allow future generations to have some say in resource allocation. Another reason for adopting a future flexibility policy is to maintain a cushion or contingency resource surplus against future disasters, or errors in projections of future needs.

2. ENVIRONMENT

The Ministry of Natural Resources will be committed to maintaining and improving overall environmental quality. All management programs will be subject to the *Environmental*

Assessment Act, and the Ministry will continue to identify through its component programs those areas which are sensitive to development.

Environment is defined in the *Environmental Assessment Act* as the social, economic, cultural and natural conditions that influence the life of man or a community.

The main concern of the Ministry of Natural Resources is that the environment provides the biophysical base for its programs. In addition, the Ministry of Natural Resources has certain specific responsibilities related to the environment. These include the identification of sensitive areas and the enforcement of legislation such as the *Endangered Species Act*, the *Fisheries Act* and the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act*.

The Ministry of Natural Resources will ensure that resource management activities adhere to the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* unless specifically exempted.

Acid rain causes environmental effects on a continental and even global scale. The Ministry continues to be concerned over the effects of acid rain on vegetation and fisheries habitat in Ontario, and will continue to participate with the Ministry of the Environment in the five year experimental program which began in 1981. This program will investigate the feasibility of neutralizing acid surface waters to protect aquatic life in Ontario lakes susceptible to acid rain and to rehabilitate lakes already damaged.

Sensitive areas identified in the planning process may be defined as those areas that contain features of value whose preservation may be defined as the main theme of management. The Ministry will continue its commitment to identify these sites through its component programs, e.g. fish and wildlife, parks, etc.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, the Ministry of Natural Resources will assist in the management of significant cultural resources within provincial parks and on Crown land.

3. LOCAL AND TRADITIONAL USERS

The Ministry of Natural Resources will actively involve local people and traditional resource users in the preparation of its land use guidelines. Public participation programs will emphasize the identification and consideration of the needs and wants of this group as a priority.

Ontario Crown resources belong to all of the people of Ontario and will be managed in the best interests of all citizens of the Province including local and traditional users. In preparing guidelines and plans, the Ministry of Natural Resources will attempt to avoid disruption of traditional or existing uses.

Local and traditional users will be considered the primary client group in all instances. The Ministry of Natural Resources will make a special effort to identify and accommodate their needs and wants in the planning process. Effective communication with local and traditional users will be given special attention. However, it should be stressed that local and traditional users should not expect that their desires will always be fully met. In some cases, it may be necessary to give priority to National or Provincial concerns. An example may be energy requirements.

Native people living in northeastern Ontario are among the local and traditional users of certain natural resources. When plans are being prepared, the urgent need to communicate effectively with these people must be recognized. Traditional native rights both within provincial parks and on Crown land will continue to be respected.

The existing treaty and aboriginal rights as referenced in the *Canadian Constitution* will be further defined at future constitutional conferences.

The application of the local and traditional users policy may be modified in response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment as well as ongoing tripartite negotiations.

4. LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT

The broad objective of the lands and waters program is to facilitate the orderly development and conservation of Ontario's land and water resources for the continuous social and economic benefits for the people of Ontario, and to prevent loss of life and to minimize social disruption, property damage and loss of natural resources values from forest fires, floods, erosion, earth slippage and abandoned mine hazards.

a. Proprietary Interest

The Ministry of Natural Resources will maintain the Crown's proprietary interest in land and water.

The Ministry, through its programs, has a custodianship responsibility for the 92 percent of the District that is Crown land. The proprietary interest is reflected in such programs as the removal of illegal occupations and the collection of acreage tax on mining lands. The government's position on land claims, such as those by native people, also reflects this proprietary interest.

Included within the custodianship responsibility is the maintenance of a record system for land transactions, an improved geographical referencing system, including surveys, referencing standards and the continuation of the Ontario Basic Mapping program.

b. Multiple Use

The paramount concern in land and water management is to ensure that public lands and waters are used in the most effective and efficient manner for the benefit of the people of Ontario. The Ministry of Natural Resources favours multiple use as a management strategy.

Multiple use means that two or more uses occur in the same general area, either simultaneously or in sequence. Over a broad area, several single uses may be permitted. This concept can ensure that a variety of recreational opportunities and renewable resources may be provided from the same land base.

Some specific strategies are:

- ensuring that the withdrawal of mining rights on Crown land and the withdrawal of productive forest land from forest management are minimized;
- encouraging within candidate parks uses and facilities which complement the achievement of park objectives. Uses which have no significant negative impact on the long term achievement of park objectives will be permitted with the appropriate controls, and uses which would conflict with long term achievement of park objectives will be prohibited;
- attempting to integrate the various water resource uses such as transportation, recreation, hydraulic power generation and flood control;
- continuing liaison with municipalities, private industry and other government agencies to encourage the achievement of the land and water management policy; and,
- attempting to recognize the intent of municipal plans and by-laws in its plans and guidelines. However, if a significant Provincial resource is inappropriately dealt with in a municipal planning document, the Ministry will consider taking further action under the procedures provided for by the *Planning Act*.

c. Crown Land Disposition

The Ministry of Natural Resources has charge of the management, sale and disposition of the Province's public lands. The term disposition refers to the conveying, by the Crown, of various types of leasehold or freehold land rights to others. The overall intent is to ensure that certain rights to public land and use of water are conveyed, by appropriate means, consistent with the achievement of Ministry objectives and in cooperation with other agencies.

The Ministry of Natural Resources will dispose of Crown land in order to encourage private initiatives and development.

When disposing of Crown land, the Ministry will ensure:

- that dispositions (e.g. sales, leases) are consistent with existing policies and approved district land use guidelines, and meet the requirements of other agencies, ministries and municipalities;
- that lands are developed or put to use, without delay, for the specific purpose for which they were granted; and,
- that lands are disposed of at prices or rents which represent a fair market value monetary return to the people of Ontario.

In organized municipalities, the Ministry of Natural Resources will make public lands available for residential and urban uses if such uses are approved in an official plan or zoning by-law. Where an official plan or zoning by-law is not in place, consultation with the municipality, as well as approval of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will be required. In unorganized areas, the Ministry of Natural Resources will dispose of land for rural residential use based upon the policy and recommendation of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. In both organized and unorganized areas, the Ministry of Natural Resources will not act as developer for residential subdivisions. In areas where new resource initiatives are being established, the Ministry's preference is to encourage workers to reside in an existing municipality rather than create a new townsite. Land disposition for agriculture, commercial tourism and cottaging will be subject to their respective policies contained elsewhere in this document.

d. Crown Land Recreation

The general policy for the recreational use of Crown land is permissive, with no charge to residents, excepting where:

- resource conflicts are, or would be, significant;
- environmental damage is evident or would occur; or,
- such use requires the occupation of a site in excess of 21 days or a permanent structure.

Where any of these apply, then restrictions to Crown land use may be imposed. For example, hunting may be restricted near logging camps, or camping may be restricted in picnic areas or on very fragile sites.

e. Hazard Lands

Hazard lands are lands having inherent environmental hazards such as flood or erosion susceptibility, instability or any other physical condition which is severe enough to pose a risk of loss of life, property damage and social disruption, if development were permitted.

Government policy is that there should be no encroachment of structural development on hazard lands. While the Province has adopted a general principle of no development in the case of floodplains, there are provisions for considering or accommodating exceptional circumstances. Relief from the strict application of the *Flood Plain Criteria for Ontario* may be sought through the two-zone floodway - flood fringe concept, or, in unique situations and with Provincial approval, the application of a Special Policy Area approach.

Flooding problems associated with natural rainfall and snowmelt events affect many portions of the District. The Mississagi River, the Little White River, the Thessalon River and the Serpent River are all susceptible to flooding episodes. In addition, elevated water levels on Lake Huron, coupled with high winds can cause local flooding in low lying areas. The Ministry monitors snowpack and metereological conditions in an effort to forecast flooding events in order to give affected residents time to prepare for possible large scale floods.

f. Fire

A new *Forest Fire Management Policy* for Ontario has been approved. This updated policy does not recognize the two-zone protection concept stated in the recently approved *Northeastern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan*. The current policy is directed towards the Ministry's goal "...to PROTECT public lands and waters".

The policy is that each and every fire occurrence in Ontario will receive a response.

The basic principle of the *Forest Fire Management Policy* is that fire has always been a significant factor in the forests of Ontario and will continue to have an impact on people and their environment. Forest fire management is, therefore, an integral part of land and resource management.

While aiming towards the Ministry goal the policy takes into account two key realities with respect to fire. They are:

- wildfires cannot be totally eliminated from Ontario forests; therefore fire management is based on the values being protected and on cost-effective operations. Where property and personal safety are involved, there will be an immediate response; and,
- forest fires are not confined to public lands; therefore, fire management is conditionally extended to all fire hazard lands of the Province irrespective of land ownership or jurisdiction.

g. Waste Disposal

The Ministry of Natural Resources provides environmentally secure waste disposal sites for the safe disposal of solid waste generated from activities carried out on Crown land.

Some specific strategies are:

- providing and maintaining waste disposal sites in the unorganized portions of the District where waste disposal services are unavailable;
- planning and locating waste disposal sites in a manner which will be most effective from the aspects of economy, environment and transport;
- ensuring that bush operations (e.g. mining exploration, forestry) implement acceptable waste disposal practices; and,
- using the media and other methods to broaden the public's awareness of the impact which littering has on natural resources and the environment.

As the use of and development on Crown land becomes more intense, the need for environmentally sound waste disposal methods becomes more critical.

Seasonal and permanent residences, industrial, and commercial and institutional developments in unorganized areas will be required to have the use of adequate year-round waste disposal facilities which are approved by the appropriate government agency.

Although the Ministry of Natural Resources will continue to provide waste disposal sites in unorganized areas, the direction of management will be towards developing a few high capacity sites in key locations within the District.

h. Water Management

The Ministry of Natural Resources manages water and related land resources for the optimum continuous social, economic and environmental benefit of the people of Ontario.

Some specific strategies are:

- providing for the control of surface waters and the regulation of water related improvements in the Blind River District;
- allocating and managing water and related land resources necessary for power generation, low flow augmentation, outdoor recreation and general public convenience;
- continuing to assist in water quality control through the administration of the *Public Lands Act*, the *Beach Protection Act*, the *Beds of Navigable Waters Act*, the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* and the *Fisheries Act* (Canada); and by participating with the Ministry of the Environment in the monitoring of water quality as it affects fisheries and recreational management;
- continuing to regulate the water levels of Ministry of Natural Resources controlled dams in the District; and,
- continuing to maintain and implement the *District Flood Emergency Plan*.

While water quality and water quantity issues continue to have high profile within the Blind River District, the recent establishment of sewage treatment facilities in Blind River and Thessalon have improved the water quality in these areas.

The Serpent River watershed has been affected by mine waste discharges since the development of the uranium mines in the Elliot Lake area over twenty-five years ago. Although adequate treatment of mine wastes is now occurring, most portions of the Serpent River watershed continue to have a lower water quality in relation to other District waters.

Many former logging dams in the District are now under the control of this Ministry. The Ministry attempts to regulate water levels controlled by these dams on lakes where recreational development and public use exists.

i. Access Roads

Access roads will be developed and maintained consistent with approved Ministry land use guidelines, resource management plans and operating guidelines. To ensure overall coordination, multi-year plans for road access will be prepared for the Province, the region and the districts. The following statements represent the basics of the Ministry's access road policy:

- access roads will be built to stimulate development and use of Ontario's natural resources;
- access roads will take into account tourism requirements for isolation, the needs of the mining and forest industries, outdoor recreation opportunities for residents of Ontario, and incidental general public, commercial and industrial transportation uses;
- access road plans will be developed on a long-term basis and will be subject to public consultation;
- plans will take into account the requirement (if any) for public access;
- roads will be classified as permanent or temporary based on intended use;
- temporary roads will be rendered inoperative when intended uses are fulfilled;
- access roads may be closed temporarily or seasonally to the public for resource management and/or public safety reasons; and,
- alignment of roads will be planned:
  - to avoid lake access where appropriate,
  - to provide controlled access, or,
  - to provide public access,

  consistent with the intended purpose of the roads.

Individual access road proposals will be subject to an alignment and impact review to ensure that:

- the need for the road is understood;
- some alternative routes have been explored;
- affected resource users in the area have an opportunity to contribute to the planning of the project;

- the selected route is aligned in such a way as to minimize its impact on existing resource users; and,
- the Ministry's intentions concerning the future status of the road and possible use restrictions are clearly understood.

The District Manager will ensure that all proposed road plans are available for public review at the District office. The District Manager will also review pertinent road location /construction plans for the upcoming year with all affected tourist operators, the local Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters' Association representatives, and others. As a general guide, the Ministry of Natural Resources will attempt to ensure that all forest access roads are located at least 120 metres from the shoreline of lakes.

There will be many situations where this will not be possible and in the event that proposed locations are not feasible, and in the event that alternative locations cannot be agreed upon, the District Manager will call a meeting of the parties involved to discuss and resolve the differences.

While roads will generally be open to the public, the Ministry may elect to close roads under its jurisdiction where:
- an emergency situation exists or if public safety is in jeopardy;
- such action can be effectively utilized as a technique for limiting the harvesting of an over-utilized resource; and,
- an existing facility is placed in undue jeopardy due to unlimited public access.

The policy concerning roads recognizes that the Ministry of Natural Resources has an important role in the management of all roads on Crown land. In some cases this management includes actual construction and maintenance. In other cases, it reviews and approves other agencies' road plans and/or provides financial assistance. During the 1981-82 fiscal year, the Ministry constructed 19 kilometres of access roads in the Blind River District and also maintained 726 kilometres of roads.

In most cases roads are required to move resource products to processing and market. They also access areas for mineral exploration. In many cases they are needed to convert recreational potential into tourism benefits. Roads also disperse recreationalists over wider areas and thus provide for a more complete and balanced use of fish and wildlife resources.

Roads, however, can create problems when limited resources come under increasing pressure. Many of these situations can be avoided either through the planning of road locations or though limiting the life of the road through such techniques as natural deterioration or mechanical removal or by restricting all or certain classes of vehicles through road closure.

j. Modified Management Areas

Modified Management Areas (MMA's) will be designed to maintain or improve resource values such as:
- fish habitat;
- wildlife habitat;
- scenic areas or other recreation or tourism resources and establishments;
- special features such as cultural, historic, biological or earth science sites; and,
- fragile forest sites;

within a multiple use context. Land use activity within these areas will be designed so as to maintain and/or improve identified resource values.

The following statements represent the basics of the modified management area concept:
- as an initial position, modified management areas will be assumed to be necessary on all shorelands; and,
- modified management areas will be established on other areas as necessary.

The term modified management area replaces such terms as forest reserve and buffer.

(i) General Modified management areas may be established to control any undertaking such as mining or recreation development.

Modified management, in the case of forestry, should apply to all operating activities such as road building, stream crossings, cutting, skidding and scarifying. Depending on local conditions, the prescription for forest management could provide for a broad range of utilization levels. Thus, cutting could be permitted in some areas and not in others. There are a variety of cutting methods that can be used, however, there is no recommended best method.

(ii) Shorelands Because there is a keen competition for shorelands for such uses as forestry, fish and wildlife habitat and recreation, it should be assumed, as an initial position, that a 120 metre MMA is recognized on all shorelands. The dimensions of this area may be altered as necessary to suit particular circumstances.

Where it is determined that an MMA is not required, the reason will be documented and filed with the appropriate forest management plan.

The MMA on shorelands should normally be managed by a two-zone concept where the inner zone, next to the water, is a zone of minimal disturbance. The outer zone should be an area of more general use, however, certain aspects of management will have to be carefully controlled. The extent of each zone will vary with local conditions such as topography and soil material.

The suggested width of the minimal disturbance zone is as follows:

Shore Slope in Percent	Width of Minimal Disturbance Zone
0	15 metres
10	30 metres
20	40 metres
30	50 metres
40	60 metres

The minimal disturbance zone could, in some cases, be an area where forest cutting is not permitted, but in other cases modified forest cutting could occur. However, roads which are considered a major disturbance should not be built in the minimal disturbance zone.

Because roads can cause major losses of fish habitat, a set of guidelines for road construction will be attached to all work permits related to the shoreland area. Special reference should be made to stream crossings.

Because lake trout are relatively rare and sensitive to disturbance, very special attention will be given to protection of their habitat. To protect lake trout habitat, it may be necessary to modify management practices beyond the immediate shoreland area. Some management practices may have to be modified throughout the entire watershed around the trout lakes.

Sensitive features of other fish habitat such as walleye spawning areas, must also receive special protection.

(iii) Other Areas MMA's may be identified, planned and managed for other program concerns as necessary:

- Wildlife: Areas for wildlife must include habitat of endangered species and may include deer and moose habitat or other special wildlife habitat such as heronries.
- Scenic Resources: Areas for the maintenance or improvement of scenery may be identified and managed. For example, areas along certain highways and designated trails may be identified as an MMA. However, it will not normally be acceptable to designate extensive areas of no forest cutting for this purpose. While it is recognized that it is desirable to leave some areas uncut, it is also recognized that a well planned forest harvest can result in a varied and pleasing landscape.
- Other Recreation or Tourism Resources and Establishments: Where it is in the public interests to do so, an MMA may be identified and managed to protect particular recreation or tourism resources and establishments. The extent of the no-cut portions of such an area would have to be related to the direct and indirect benefits that would accrue to the people of Ontario from such protection. Each case must be judged on its own merits.
- Special Features such as Cultural and Historic Sites: MMA's may be identified and managed to protect those features which require protection.

(iv) Responsibility The identification and management of MMA's will be the responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources who will ensure:

- that a management prescription is prepared for each MMA and that all MNR program concerns are given consideration;
- that private sector interests, such as cottagers and special interest groups are consulted and kept informed as necessary;
- that suitable records are kept of MMA's, their prescription and their treatments; and,
- that suitable management controls are in place and implemented so that MMA's are managed according to the MMA prescription.

5. ENERGY RESOURCES

The Ministry of Natural Resources will contribute to the implementation of Ontario's energy security policy through its allocation of land and water to various uses.

The Provincial goal is to increase Ontario's energy self sufficiency from 22 percent to 37.5 percent by 1995. This will be accomplished by increasing the proportion of Ontario's energy consumption provided from resources within the Province, by increasing reliance on renewable and recoverable energy resources and by decreasing reliance on crude oil. This may be achieved by:

- identifying lands and waters which have a potential for providing indigenous energy resources, e.g. hydraulic power, uranium, oil, gas, lignite, peat, wood, etc.;
- cooperating with other agencies and the private sector in the identification and development of energy resources;
- allocating land and water for energy production in a manner which reflects both the importance of energy supply and the other resource potentials of the area;
- continuing to recognize existing utility rights-of-way and to evaluate new proposals on a case-by- case basis, to determine impacts on Ministry programs, objectives and targets;
- encouraging energy recovery programs such as the use of forest residues from sawmill and pulpmill operations;
- encouraging interim uses on lands and waters with significant energy potential which would not preclude their future use for energy production; and,
- identifying fuelwood sources from Crown lands near urban areas.

The resources of the Blind River District are presently making a significant contribution toward the Provincial goal. The Elliot Lake uranium mines, the largest such mining operation in the Province, presently hold long term contracts to supply uranium to Ontario Hydro for use in Hydro's nuclear generating stations. Ontario Hydro also operates four hydro-electric generating stations on the Mississagi River, having a combined installed capacity of 416,250 kilowatts. An additional generating site, Patton Post, may have development potential in the future. Patton Post is situated on the Mississagi River north of Tunnel Lake. Research into the utilization of other indigenous sources is occurring throughout many levels of government. Peat, fuel-wood, forest and sawmill residues from the Blind River District may some day contribute towards meeting the Provincial goal. The District does not contain any known oil, gas or coal deposits of economic significance.

Land and water needs for the development of indigenous fuel sources may compete with other established uses. Such conflicts will be assessed on a case by case basis through the environmental assessment process.

C: resource policies

The statements in this section express the objectives and targets which the Ministry of Natural Resources proposes to reach in specific policy and program areas by the year 2000 in the Blind River District, as assigned from the *Northeastern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan*.

1. AGRICULTURE

a. Objective

In accordance with the *Food Land Guidelines*, the Ministry of Natural Resources will provide Class 2, 3 and 4 Crown agricultural lands(1) and, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, will encourage the use of Class 2, 3 and 4 private agricultural lands for agricultural use up to the projected maximum requirements to the year 2000.

b. Target

Up to 63 hectares of cleared Crown land will be made available for agricultural purposes to the year 2000. In addition, agricultural uses will be encouraged on the 1,700 hectares of presently abandoned private farmland and 750 hectares of privately owned forested land of Class 2, 3 and 4 agricultural capability.

c. Strategy

- encouraging municipalities and other Provincial agencies to endorse land use designations and severance policies which are compatible with agricultural use and are in conformity with the *Food Land Guidelines*;
- encouraging the expansion of the agricultural land base upon private Class 2, 3 and 4 lands adjacent to existing agricultural communities;
- disposing of Crown lands for agricultural use on an individual parcel basis, as the need arises, with the approval of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food; and,
- discouraging on critical Class 2, 3 and 4 Crown lands any disposition and subsequent use of land which would prevent future use for food production.

The Crown land parcels which will continue to be made available for agricultural purposes to meet the target are listed in table 1. The 3.8 hectares available in addition to the 63.0 hectare target will permit some future flexibility in meeting the target.

TABLE 1 AVAILABLE CROWN AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Location	Size
Galbraith Twp.	
(a) Part of Lot 1, Con. V	6.0 ha
(b) Part of Lot 2, Con. IV	2.8 ha
(c) Part of Lot 3, Con. IV	16.0 ha
(d) Part of Lot 6, Con. II	15.0 ha
Parkinson Twp.	
(a) Part of Lot 3, Con. II	6.0 ha
Gladstone Twp.	
(a) Part of Lot 8, Con. VI	13.0 ha
Montgomery Twp.	
(a) Part of Lot 12, Con. I	6.0 ha
Patton Twp.	
(a) Part of Lot 9, Con. V	2.0 ha
TOTAL	66.8 ha

Forest management on lands within critical farming areas may occur, but should only take place with the knowledge that such lands may be required in the future for agricultural purposes. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food must be consulted prior to any forest management activity occurring on these lands.

d. Discussion

The primary agricultural uses within the District are dairy and beef cattle production, although other uses such as egg production, mixed farming and cereal crop production do occur. No major change in commodities is anticipated in the future, although there is a trend towards larger farm sizes.

The small area of Crown land available for agricultural purposes (63 hectares) will not make a great contribution to future expansion of agricultural facilities; the bulk of new farmland will come from lands presently held privately.

The stoney and rocky nature of much of the farming areas, coupled with the historically small size of pasture lands, has led to a complex pattern of active and abandoned farmlands over much of the southern and western portions of the District. Interspersed between critical farming areas are lands containing other resources, such as aggregate, forests, and wildlife, which will be managed according to their respective policies.

2. COTTAGING

a. Objective

To complement the private sector in providing a variety of cottaging opportunities, primarily to local residents.

b. Target

No targets have been developed for the Blind River District.

c. Strategy

- investigating the District's smaller lakes and rivers to evaluate their suitability for cottaging when guidelines are developed;
- exploring the potential for backshore subdivision sites and their marketability;
- undertaking periodic reviews of the District's lake inventory data to determine the feasibility of developing lots on lakes presently considered unavailable; and,
- monitoring demand for Crown cottage lots.

d. Discussion

The major constraints to cottage lot development within the Blind River District are water quality, lake trout, topography and access. The District contains one of the highest densities of lake trout waters in the Province, and these clear, coldwater lakes are very susceptible to changes in water quality which can result in degradation of the lake trout habitat. The increasing costs of road construction make the development of many of the presently inaccessible lakes economically unattractive. The large hydro reservoirs in the Mississagi River (Red Rock Lake, Tunnel Lake, Aubrey Lake and Rocky Island Lake) are not available for cottaging due to water level fluctuations.

In the Elliot Lake area, where the greatest demand for cottaging exists, poor water quality presents an additional problem. The lakes comprising the Serpent River system in this area have been affected by the historical discharges of pollutants by the mining industry, and although recent environmental controls are ensuring that all mine wastes are now adequately treated prior to discharge, many lakes remain unsuitable for recreational development due to depressed pH (high acidity) and the presence of radio-nucleides.

Development of smaller lakes and rivers for cottaging purposes may be an option in the future, should adequate guidelines become available. Such cottaging opportunities, however, would likely be of a more remote nature, with limited access.

Backshore cottage developments may present another possible option for consideration depending on their marketability and the availability of suitable development sites.

The price of Crown lots will include associated service costs such as surveying. In addition, the acquisition of a Crown lot will require ongoing commitment by lot owners for maintenance of associated facilities such as access roads and waste disposal sites.

Road access, changes in existing fisheries and the development of new lake management techniques may make presently unsuitable lakes available for development in the future. The District will periodically re-evaluate all lake inventory data to assess any changes which may take place.

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3. CROWN LAND RECREATION

a. Objectives

- to provide for recreational use by residents(2);
- to increase economic benefits derived from non-resident of Ontario recreational use of Crown land; and,
- to minimize competition between resident users and non-resident of Ontario users in areas where the quality of experience is unsatisfactory.

b. Target

Quantifiable Crown land recreation targets have not been developed.

c. Strategy

Currently, competition between resident and non-resident of Ontario recreationists using Crown land and its various resources is an important issue in northern Ontario. In an attempt to deal with this issue, the following strategies have been identified within a Crown Land Recreation Policy for northern Ontario(3) and will be phased in gradually:

- Crown lands will be zoned to either permit or prohibit Crown land camping by non-residents of Ontario;
- regulations will be passed related to the use of fish and wildlife resources by non-residents of Ontario. Such regulations may contain species and/or harvest limits, seasonal restrictions and may also specify base of operations(4);
- Crown land camping sites may be selected and leased to the private sector to be managed as campsites and made available for public use at market prices; and,
- all non-residents of Ontario who camp on Crown land will be required to pay a user fee.

The objectives for Crown land recreation will be further achieved by:

- managing the supporting resources such as fish and wildlife, providing access to re-

sources and providing facilities such as access points, parking spaces, campsites and trails. Consideration will be given towards managing existing and future recreational uses in the following manner:

- **Swimming: beach areas having existing use or the potential for future use by the public will be protected from adverse uses. Beaches having existing access and those along the Lake Huron shoreline will be given special consideration;**
- **Canoeing: existing canoe routes will be maintained. There is very limited opportunity for development of additional routes;**
- **Trails: the Ministry may provide assistance to organizations operating snowmachine, skiing, hiking and horseback riding trails on Crown land. Crown land will be made available, and privatization of facilities may be considered where no conflicts with other users are anticipated;**
- **Camping: overnight camping at existing Class III access points may be permitted. Crown land camping will be regulated or discouraged in areas where conflicts with other more formal facilities are identified. As a means of evaluating the Crown land camping situation across the District, an analysis will be undertaken to identify possible conflict areas and recommend corrective measures where appropriate; and,**
- **Access: further access point development and expansions to existing access points may be considered as a result of new road access proposals and as a result of demand. Any new access point development must take into account all potential impacts on the local resource base and existing uses;**
- **ensuring that Ministry facilities are located, designed and managed only in areas where the land and water base is capable of supporting Crown land recreational use;**
- **ensuring, through location and design of Crown land recreational facilities, that conflicts with other resource users and private sector developments are minimized; and,**
- **encouraging municipalities and private organizations to develop and maintain recreational areas and facilities.**

d. Discussion

Over 90 percent of the Blind River District is Crown land, much of which is readily accessible and available for recreational purposes. The District contains a wide variety of landscapes and associated recreational opportunities. Backcountry canoeing is available in the northern portion of the District and around Mississagi Provincial Park; hiking occurs adjacent to Mississagi Provincial Park and along the Voyageur Trail system in the southern portion of the District; camping is available on all Crown lands including the many Class III access points maintained by the Ministry; the District's large lakes offer excellent boating opportunities, while the North Channel of Lake Huron contains some of the country's best inland yachting waters. Table 2 indicates some of the Crown land recreational uses occurring within the District. This listing is incomplete, as informal uses of Crown land - canoeing, boating and camping - in other areas can account for many recreational opportunities. Yachting use on the North Channel, for instance, cannot be accurately estimated, due to the isolated nature of the area.

Few recreational facilities are being used at capacity at the present time. However, there

TABLE 2 CROWN LAND RECREATIONAL USE

Facility	No. of km/units	Use(1)(2)
Canoe Routes	672 km 10 routes	approx. 2,000 users (1981)
Hiking Trails	17.3 km 4 trails	approx. 11,400 users (1981)
Access Points	total of 48	approx. 134,000 users (1980)
Snowmachine Trails	5 clubs 427 km	approx. 12,300 trips (1980-81)
Ski Trails	1 club	approx. 600 trips (1980-81)

(1) Does not include use in provincial parks.
(2) Levels of use are based on actual registrations or best estimates. Figures are conservative.

has been a continuing increase in the number of canoe and snowmachine trips over the past few years. This trend is expected to continue, along with an increase in the use of ski trails. The development of marina facilities in Blind River may also contribute to an increase in boating and yachting uses within the North Channel.

Appendix D lists the access points within the Blind River District by class and uses.

Recently, problems relating to the use of recreational Crown land have become more pronounced. The prime reasons for this are increasing numbers of recreationists (both resident and non-resident) competing for resources (fish, game, natural areas) which are finite and, in many cases, are declining. Reasons for the decline are many but the most important include over-harvesting by recreationists and commercial users, and changes in habitat resulting from resource development activities.

As resources become, or appear to become scarce, inevitably competition between users becomes more serious. Currently, competition between resident and non-resident recreationists using Crown land and its various resources is an important issue in northern Ontario. The main reasons for this becoming an issue are:

- increased demand by more people for fewer resources;
- the feeling by residents of Ontario that they should receive top priority in the allocation of such resources; and,
- the feeling that non-residents should be required to pay for the relatively high quality of recreational experience Ontario's Crown lands provide and that they should contribute significantly to the tourism economy of the Province.

Several studies have been conducted by the government with the objective of identifying the issues related to Crown land recreation and to provide solutions to the problems. Two key issues have been identified:

- the need to gain more economic benefits from non-resident recreational users; and,
- the need to reduce competition between resident and non-resident recreational users, particularly in situations where resource limitations are real or at least strongly perceived.

Basic principles which guide the Crown Land Recreation Policy are:

- to provide for recreational use by non-residents in order to derive economic benefits;
- to allocate scarce or less plentiful resources for non-resident use in such a way as to extract maximum economic benefits; and,
- to minimize competition between resident users and non-resident users in areas where, because of limited resources or congestion, the quality of experience is unsatisfactory.

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4. FIRE MANAGEMENT

Although fire is not a land use itself, it can have a significant impact on land management. Just as land uses are affected by fire, they also can affect fire potential. Wildfire and prescribed fire can also modify the natural resource base and, therefore, its ability to deliver natural resource products.

a. Objectives

- to prevent personal injury, loss of life, and social disruption resulting from a forest fire;
- to minimize the negative impact of fire on public works, private property and natural resources in Ontario; and,
- to utilize the natural benefits of fire in achieving Ministry objectives for land and resource management.

b. Target

Targets for fire control and use in the District are set and dictated by the targets established in specific land and resource management plans and in accordance with the stated objectives.

c. Strategy

The fire management program performs a support function that provides expert knowledge and specialized services in the matters of fire control and fire use to client groups within and outside the Ministry. Those services will be carried out by:

- protecting values at risk through measures that prevent the occurrence of wildfires and control those wildfires that threaten values; and,
- using prescribed fire as an approved resource management technique.

The fire management program will be conducted within a comprehensive planning system and implemented in accordance with:

- area plans that describe the fire management objectives for the District; and,
- delivery plans that describe the administrative procedures and operating guidelines

necessary to accomplish the fire management objectives set out in the area plans.

Every forest fire in the District will receive a response, and each response will be governed by:
- the predicted behaviour of the fire; and,
- the potential impact of the fire on persons, property and values.

The fire management program will be performed in a well planned, safe and cost effective manner while ensuring that:
- legislated obligations are met;
- Ministry responsibilities are fulfilled; and,
- all land and resource management requirements, relative to fire, are met to the extent possible.

The fire management program will maintain its standards and momentum by:
- engaging modern research and systems support techniques;
- transferring available technology into practical applications; and,
- recognizing personnel as the primary component of the program.

d. Discussion
The fire occurrence history of the Blind River District for the past 10 years by five year periods is as follow:
- 1973 to 1977: 335 fires burned a total of 370 hectares.
- 1978 to 1982: 101 fires burned a total of 200 hectares.

The major concerns relating to forest fires in the District are:
- the severe fire hazard in the northwest portion of the District where spruce budworm has killed large areas of balsam fir. This fuel type can present a major control problem, especially in the early spring period;
- a number of extensive pine plantations in the District represent high values. While fire occurrences in these areas have not been a problem to date, the value lost should fires occur, would be considerable; and,
- the increasing population in the Elliot Lake area has resulted in an increasing number of fire starts over the past few years.

The Chapleau-Mississagi fire of 1948 burned over 260,000 hectares and in 1955, fires consumed an additional 57,000 hectares. These fires contributed significantly to the eventual closing of the sawmilling operations in Blind River in the late 1960's. Since 1955, forest fires have had little impact on District natural resources. Summer lightning fires in the central portion of the District have potential for creating some impact. This is an inaccessible area which contains rough terrain; access for fire fighting operations is available only by helicopter.

In order to achieve the stated objectives and minimize any potential impacts, the District program will emphasize the following:
- administering and enforcing the *Forest Fires Prevention Act*;
- encouraging fire prevention on Crown land and private lands through education and information dissemination; and,
- ensuring an appropriate response to every fire.

The use of prescribed fire in the District will continue. Prescribed burns will be conducted for silvicultural purposes, fire hazard reduction and wildlife management purposes, where warranted.

Silvicultural burns will be conducted mainly in conifer working groups.

5. FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

The fisheries resource is managed for both recreational and commercial uses. In addition to specific policies for commercial and sport fishing there is also a need for a general policy related to fisheries management.

a. General

(i) Objective To protect, enhance, maintain and rehabilitate fish communities and their environment in order to provide an optimum contribution of fish, fishing opportunities and their associated benefits to society.

(ii) Strategy
- monitoring fish communities for signs of stress and where stress is identified, taking corrective action;
- rehabilitating degraded aquatic communities by habitat improvement and stocking;
- enforcing and encouraging adherence to the relevant laws protecting fisheries;
- ensuring that the environmental quality essential to the health of the aquatic communities is retained;
- allocating fish resources where there are competing users to provide the optimum mix of benefits and to maintain healthy balanced fish populations;

- improving access to waters capable of sustaining additional recreational fishing;
- expanding knowledge for more effective future management;
- increasing dialogue with the general public and tourism sectors to ensure a more complete understanding of fisheries management programs and fisheries concerns within the District;
- allocating the allowable harvest of the fisheries resource among user groups based on an objective careful examination of all relevant biological, social and economic factors to ensure that the optimum benefits accrue to the residents of Ontario. It is the responsibility of both anglers and commercial fishermen to participate in cooperative management and adhere to their catch limits, quotas and the regulations to protect the fish stocks and guarantee their perpetuation for the future; and,
- protecting fisheries resources in the Great Lakes by working with American jurisdictions to ensure that balanced harvests of fish stocks are assured and management strategies are compatible.

(iii) Discussion The population and economy of Ontario continue to grow, and with it a greater demand has been placed upon fish resources. The progressive loss of desired fish stocks has resulted from the degradation of fish communities by one or more stresses including eutrophication, acid rain, overfishing and habitat destruction.

Because of the continental impact of acid rain, the Ministry, in conjunction with other jurisdictions, will actively support research and rehabilitation projects.

Fisheries are an indicator of environmental quality and this realization is important to the future management of Ontario's water and fisheries.

b. Sport Fishing

(i) Objective To maintain opportunities for a diversified angling experience and meet the future angling demand for all species within the limits of sustained yield management.

(ii) Target To satisfy angling demand through the provision of up to 104,000 kilograms of sport fish per year.

(iii) Strategy
- providing angling opportunities for all species found in District waters;
- promoting a greater utilization of less desirable fish species by anglers;
- directing management efforts towards the prevention of habitat destruction and rehabilitation of degraded aquatic habitats;
- encouraging the relocation of fishing demand through such means as season adjustment and the provision or control of access;
- in areas of high demand near population centres, examining the feasibility of creating new self-sustaining or put-delay-and-take fisheries for local use; and,
- as a means of increasing angling variety, establishing or enhancing warm water fisheries, specifically walleye, in areas of suitable habitat.

(iv) Discussion Table 3 indicates the present and potential sport fish production, and anticipated angler demands for the inland waters of the Blind River District. Existing angler day demands are expected to increase to 103,000 by the year 2000, leaving a potential surplus of 126,000 angling opportunities. Angling pressure is not evenly distributed across the District; certain lakes will require harvest controls (e.g. shortened angling seasons) to ensure the maintenance of healthy fish populations. The surplus of angling opportunities will allow for future flexibility in the allocation of fish resources. For example, the

TABLE 3 SPORT FISH DATA

Inland Water Area	Average(1) MEI	Sustained Yield of Fish	Sport Fish(2) Portion	Present Angler Days	Present Demand	Available Angler Days	TARGET Fish Yield (2000)	Projected Angler(3) Days (2000)
92,137 ha	2.07	298,000 kg (3.22 kg/ha)	104,000 kg	92,000	42,000 kg	229,000	104,000 kg	103,000

(1) The morpho-edaphic index (MEI) is a measure of lake productivity.

(2) Sport fish portion is assumed to be 35% of total fish population.

(3) These projected days are for inland waters only. In this case the 103,000 angler days is a 12% increase from the present 92,000 angler days.

TABLE 4 LAKES OVER 1,000 HECTARES

Lake	Fish Species							
	Lake Trout	Brook Trout	Lake Whitefish	Northern Pike	Walleye	Yellow Perch	Smallmouth Bass	Maskinonge
Aubrey			x	x	x			
Rocky Island	x		x	x	x			
Bark	x		x	x				
Wakomata	x	x		x			x	
Dunlop	x	x	x		x	x	x	
Tunnel				x	x		x	
Matinenda	x	x	x	x			x	
Chiblow/ Little Chiblow	x		x		x	x	x	
Basswood	x	x	x		x		x	
Bright				x	x	x	x	
Duborne	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Lauzon	x		x	x	x	x	x	x

distribution of commercial outpost camps is partly due to the allocation of the fish resource where angling pressure by the general public is low.

Although lake trout and brook trout are the most sought after species, demand for warm water species, specifically walleye, is increasing. This demand for walleye may be due more to a depletion of fishing opportunities for other species, than to an increase in angler numbers. It is noted, however, that in some parts of the District, the tourism sector relies heavily on the utilization of warm water fisheries in attracting their clientele.

Angling pressure on more accessible lakes in the Elliot Lake area is expected to dramatically increase as the town's population expands over the next decade. This rapid increase in angling demand may necessitate more immediate management efforts to preserve declining fisheries and to establish new ones.

In northeastern Ontario, lakes having a surface area in excess of 1,000 hectares are considered the most critical in terms of meeting the angling target. Table 4 indicates the lakes in this category and their major sport fishing species. These lakes are of prime importance due to their water volumes, variety of aquatic habitat and their significant contribution to the District's fish population. In northeastern Ontario, it is estimated that lakes over 1,000 hectares account for 28 percent of the total fish production.

The bulk of angling opportunities occurs on the many hundreds of smaller lakes dispersed throughout the District. Although road access has historically influenced the angling pattern in northern Ontario, the recent increase in winter snowmachine travel has resulted in greater demands being placed on lakes which were previously considered unavailable for angling due to their isolation. Small lake trout lakes, which are prevalent within easy travel distances of Elliot Lake, are particularly vulnerable to overfishing during the winter season. Specific management efforts on certain of these heavily utilized lakes will be required in order to meet the angling target.

A number of lakes and streams within the District have angling restrictions in effect. These restrictions have been implemented for a variety of reasons, and will remain in effect until no longer required. Appendix G lists these angling restrictions, and the basis for their establishment.

c. Lake Trout

(i) Objective To manage for the survival and maintenance of significant lake trout populations as well as the provision of angling opportunities.

(ii) Target To protect significant lake trout waters in the Blind River District.

(iii) Strategy The 230 known lake trout lakes in the Blind River District have been evaluated and typed according to their ability to produce and maintain a lake trout population. Management efforts will be concentrated on those lakes with the higher potential.

All Type A and B lake trout lakes are designated for protection and management:

- Type A lakes contain excellent populations of naturally reproducing lake trout. On Type A1 lakes the Crown has retained ownership and therefore control of the shoreline. These lakes will be managed exclusively for lake trout. No additional access or development will be permitted. Type A2 lakes have some private shoreline development. These lakes will be managed for lake trout but consideration will be given to other objectives on a case by case basis. Development should be designed to have a minimal impact on the aquatic habitat (e.g. shoreline set-back); and,
- Type B lakes contain either fair populations of naturally reproducing lake trout or excellent populations which are dependent upon stocking. On Type B1 lakes the Crown has retained ownership and therefore control of the shoreline. These lakes will be managed exclusively for lake trout. No additional access or development will be permitted. Type B2 lakes have some private shoreline development and will be managed similar to A2 lakes.

Type C lake trout lakes are not designated for protection and management; these lakes contain poor lake trout populations. This is usually due to restrictive habitat conditions (e.g. summer oxygen depletion). These lakes will be considered for other uses as required. Further shoreline development will be evaluated on the basis of other than lake trout.

In addition, management efforts will be concentrated on higher quality lakes in areas of angling demand, and the need and feasibility of creating new lake trout fisheries in areas of demand will be evaluated..

(iv) Discussion Table 5 indicates the distribution of the District lake trout lakes by classification:

TABLE 5 LAKE TROUT LAKE CLASSIFICATION

Type A1	Type A2	Type B1	Type B2	Type C	**Total**
80	29	83	12	26	**230**

Angling for lake trout is the most popular angling activity in the District. The Blind River District contains 230 known lake trout lakes, approximately 10 percent of the Province's supply.

Lake trout waters are recognized as the least fertile and most fragile aquatic systems to maintain. The lake trout fisheries in these lakes are sensitive to such stresses as cultural eutrophication, exploitation, water drawdowns, acid rain and the introduction of non-native species. These facts in conjunction with the local popularity of angling for lake trout necessitate the provision of stringent management guidelines to ensure the continued existence of present populations.

Naturally reproducing lake trout populations generally cannot be enhanced by additional stocking. Past experiences indicate a return of less than one percent to the angler's creel of lake trout planted in waters containing existing lake trout populations. As a result, it is more efficient to protect and maintain existing populations through control of shoreline activities which have the potential for affecting water quality, and the use of other management tools such as shortened seasons and reduced creel limits. An effective means of increasing lake trout populations is to create new lake trout fisheries in barren lakes where acceptible habitat exists.

Appendix C lists the lake trout lakes within the Blind River District by classification.

d. Commercial Fishing

(i) Objective To encourage the harvest of commercial fish populations when it is biologically and economically feasible.

(ii) Target To increase the annual commercial fish harvest from Lake Huron to 210,000 kilograms by the year 2000 and to encourage an expansion of commercial fishing operations (including baitfish) on selected inland waters.

(iii) Strategy

- providing opportunities for commercial fishing where appropriate;
- setting regulations and quotas to promote a sustained yield of commercial fish species from commercially fished waters;
- protecting spawning grounds which are necessary for the continued reproduction of commercially fished species;
- promoting the development of local markets for commercial fish species taken from District waters;
- protecting nursery areas along the Lake Huron shoreline necessary for the survival of juvenile fish;
- identifying areas and methods whereby the baitfish industry can expand to meet future demands; and,
- encouraging an increase in the harvest of presently unexploited or lightly exploited non-game species. The target for Lake Huron can only be achieved by utilizing this portion of the fish community.

(iv) Discussion The commercial fishing target represents a two-fold increase over the existing harvest in Lake Huron. This increase will be achieved primarily through the utilization of unexploited or lightly exploited non-game fish species.

The Town of Blind River is the major fishing port along the North Channel of Lake Huron. Waters in this area are important for a number of commercially fished species, with whitefish being the mainstay of the commercial fishery. Other species of importance include walleye, sturgeon, yellow perch, menominee, northern pike and herring.

Although there are no inland commercial fisheries in existence at this time, limited and controlled inland commercial fishing operations may, in some instances, be worthy of consideration.

Spawning beds situated adjacent to the shoreline are most susceptible to influences from onshore developments and may require specific attention for preservation in the future. Offshore spawning sites are unlikely to be influenced to any great degree by man's activities over the next 20 years. Migratory streams, the most critical being the Mississagi River and Thessalon River, are important spawning areas for such species as walleye, sturgeon, pink salmon and rainbow trout. Protection of spawning facilities in these rivers is of utmost importance.

Although no serious conflicts between commercial fishermen and sports fishermen are known to exist at this time, an increase in angling in some areas of the North Channel may produce conflicts in the future. The existing commercial fishing closures will remain in effect, as indicated on table 6. Future conflicts will be resolved on the basis of social, economic and biological factors.

TABLE 6 COMMERCIAL FISHING — RESTRICTED AREAS

Restricted Dates	Location
Year round	Except when authorized by a licence, no person is permitted to set or place any net (other than a dip net, hoop net or seine net) within 1,000 metres of the mouth of any river, stream or creek.
Year round	No nets are permitted within 805 metres of shoreline, westerly from MacBeth Bay.
Year round	No commercial fishing is permitted in Mississagi Bay, inside a line passing through the western extremities of Tonty and Sayers Islands.
Year round	No commercial fishing is permitted inside a line commencing at a point approximately 1.6 kilometres east of Patrick Point, thence in a southwesterly direction 214 degrees to the black Department of Transport marker, thence in a northwesterly direction to the southernmost tip of the peninsula on Hennepin Island.
From April 15 to freeze up, annually	No commercial fishing is permitted inside a line commencing at a point approximately 1.6 kilometres east of Patrick Point, thence in a southwesterly direction 214 degrees to the black Department of Transport marker, thence in an easterly direction to a red Department of Transport marker, thence in a northeasterly direction to the northernmost tip of Susanne Island, thence in a northeasterly direction to the southwesternmost tip of Caribou Point.

6. FOREST MANAGEMENT

a. Broad Objective

To provide for a continuous contribution to the economy by forest based industries and to provide for other uses of the forest through sound forest management.

b. Objectives

Within the limits of sustained yield management to provide to the forest based industries a supply of wood sufficient to meet estimated industrial requirements.

To encourage the production of the maximum "value added" to the Provincial economy from the industrial use of the forest resource by promoting as full and complete a utilization of the available forest resources as is commercially possible.

c. Target

To annually provide 482,000 net merchantable cubic metres (NMm^3) of conifer and 397,000 NMm^3 of hardwood from Crown lands within the Blind River District by the year 2000.

d. Strategy

- utilizing some 600,000 hectares of land within the District to provide for present and future commitments to the forest based industries currently established;
- gathering the required information on regeneration techniques, soils, growth and yields that will permit intensive forest management;
- determining the required level of forest management and implementing silvicultural programs to obtain this level;
- offering advice and/or assistance to encourage forest management on private lands; and,
- applying forest management in a manner which will permit other uses of the land.

e. Discussion

The Blind River District contains an area of some 600,000 hectares of Crown production forest land where forest management is able to occur; this comprises approximately 78 percent of the District land base.

The District contains three Crown forest management units - Kirkwood, Blind River and Peshu Lake. Table 7 indicates the existing harvest, the existing annual allowable cut (AAC) and the estimated annual allowable cut to the year 2000. The present harvest of hardwood and conifer from the Peshu Lake and Blind River units is significantly lower than the annual allowable cut. This trend is expected to continue. In the Kirkwood Unit, the harvest of conifer has been allowed to exceed the annual allowable cut in order to utilize overmature timber before it becomes unmarketable. Once the overmature conifer is harvested, harvest levels will be reduced.

TABLE 7 TIMBER DATA(1)

Management Unit	Present AAC NMm^3		Estimated AAC NMm^3 2000		Present Harvest NMm^3		
	Conifer	Hardwood	Conifer (target)(2)	Hardwood (target)(2)	Conifer	Hardwood	Crown Production Forest (hectares)
Blind River	41,677	94,338	46,900	99,250	15,622	80,924	136,993
Peshu Lake	266,000	184,200	419,100	224,050	121,527	31,232	415,124
Kirkwood	15,863	53,686	16,000	73,700	24,090	26,380	71,012
District Total	323,540	332,224	482,000	397,000	161,239	138,536	623,129

(1) These figures are an estimation of the forest resources within the Blind River Administrative District. Forest management planning and operations are carried out within forest management units whose boundaries do not necessarily coincide with administrative boundaries.

(2) Reduction from SLUP assigned target due to: (a) withdrawal of candidate park volumes; (b) withdrawal of volumes outside of administrative District.

In 1981, thirteen mills were licenced to operate in the Blind River District. The major wood consumers include Midway Lumber Mills (Thessalon), T.G. Fleron Ltd. (Thessalon), Birchland Veneer (Thessalon) and Blind River Veneer Ltd. (Blind River). These mills and other operations within the District produce lumber, veneer, ties and woodchips. The majority of timber harvested within the District is transported to Sault Ste. Marie and Espanola for processing into lumber, veneer, pulp and paper products.

The Ministry prepares forest management plans as a means of planning and implementing forest management on Crown lands; the management period is 20 years. For those units within the Blind River District, new management plans are presently being prepared for the period 1985 to 2005. These management planning exercises may result in changes to the annual allowable cut figures stated in this document.

If supply problems (volume or quality) arise, the primary responsibility for the alleviation of these problems rests with the forest industry through better utilization of existing timber supplies. This is to be the first priority in the resolution of any timber supply problems. Second and third priority items will be through improved forest protection and through improving the distribution of allocations.

The production forest will not be utilized solely for wood fibre production. Under sustained yield management, only a small portion of the production forest is harvested during any particular year; the remaining portions of the forest are regenerating or maturing to provide wood fibre for future harvests. Recreation and wildlife management are two examples of land uses which can occur in areas prior to, during and after harvesting. Timber harvesting has been used in the past, and will be used more often in the future, as a means of enhancing wildlife habitat.

Prime recreational areas, significant angling waters and other sites sensitive to environmental damage will require special consideration prior to harvesting, in order to minimize potential impacts due to harvesting and access.

7. MINERAL MANAGEMENT

a. Broad Objective

To encourage a balanced economic and social contribution to the Blind River District by the identification, orderly development and utilization of mineral and other earth resources.

b. Metallic and Non-metallic Minerals and Fossil Fuels

(i) Objective To encourge exploration and development of the mineral resources of the region.

(ii) Target Although no target has been established for mineral production, the District will endeavour to maintain the majority of Crown land available for staking and mineral exploration.

(iii) Strategy

- ensuring that Crown lands having high or medium mineral potential are not disposed of for uses which are not compatible with mineral exploration and extraction activity, without first examining the mineral values to determine the effects of the disposition. Retention of mineral rights will be considered in cases where the effects of disposition are not in conflict with exploration and potential mining activity;
- ensuring that known mineral deposits are protected from land uses that would preclude further exploration and development;
- ensuring that as much land as possible is open for staking and mineral exploration. In this regard the District will continue to evaluate lands presently withdrawn and make recommendations for the re-opening of those lands not required for the achievement of other programs;
- ensuring that prior to the permanent withdrawal of mining lands for any purpose that the Ministry first examine the mineral values to determine the effects of the withdrawal;
- encouraging the implementation of Ministry mineral exploration assistance and incentive programs, particularly in areas having both high unemployment and significant mineral potential; and,
- providing an accurate and comprehensive data base through field mapping projects, compilation of mineral exploration and mineral deposit data.

(iv) Discussion Stability in the mining sector is extremely important for the many District residents who are employed directly or indirectly by the industry.

The Town of Elliot Lake, for example, owes its existence to the uranium mining industry. Although long term purchases of uranium from the Elliot Lake mines have afforded a certain amount of stability to the local economy, new discoveries are required to ensure the area's economic stability for the very long term.

Exploration for additional economic deposits of uranium and for base metal minerals has been active within the District. Although no new deposits of major significance have been identified, such exploration activities must be encouraged, to permit the industry every opportunity to identify and extract mineral deposits for the benefit of future generations.

Although little can be done to influence market demands abroad for local minerals, the Ministry can assist the industry by providing an environment conducive to exploration and development.

Lands in the southern portion of the Blind River District have the highest potential for the discovery of economic mineral deposits; the mineral potential in the northern portion is generally low, but the discovery of ore bodies in the future cannot be ruled out.

The majority of the District remains open to mineral exploration and staking. Lands under the waters of Lake Huron, and some islands in the North Channel (accounting for approximately 17 percent of the District land and water area) are not available for mineral exploration. Existing and candidate provincial parks, accounting for slightly more than one percent of the District land base, are also unavailable for mineral exploration and development.

c. Mineral Aggregate

(i) Objective To meet anticipated future demand with minimal disturbance to natural and cultural resources and the social environment.

(ii) Target The target for mineral aggregate production in the Blind River District is to ensure a total cumulative supply of 40.0 million tonnes for the period 1982 to 2000. The target represents the minimum supply which must be protected.

(iii) Strategy

- ensuring that aggregate deposits critical to meeting existing and anticipated demands are available for extraction, and encouraging compatible land uses until after the resource is extracted. The majority of these critical deposits have been identified as separate management areas on maps 2 and 3; others have been identified within the management area in which they are located;
- encouraging the protection of other good quality aggregate deposits in areas away from demand centres, by encouraging compatible land uses which would not affect future extraction operations;
- encouraging programs to more accurately identify mineral aggregate potential of lands close (within 30 km) to areas of high demand; and,
- encouraging, through the *Mining Act*, *Planning Act* and otherwise, better management practices in extraction and utilization. Rehabilitation of exhausted aggregate extraction sites is expected.

All aggregate deposits situated away from demand centres will not necessarily be protected, but they may be available for development providing the land base is not required immediately for other uses.

(iv) Discussion The Blind River District, for the most part, is well endowed with mineral aggregates. However, because aggregate is a high bulk, low unit value commodity, the cost of transportation is the major component of the end cost to the consumer; thirty kilometres is usually considered as the maximum economic distance between pit and consumer.

The greatest aggregate demand area within the District is the Town of Elliot Lake. Recent major expansions within the mining and housing sectors have placed great pressures on local aggregate sources. Accessible deposits will continue to be depleted over the next decade, making future aggregate supplies more expensive to the consumer.

In other municipalities, aggregate supplies are usually available in proximity to the Highway 17 corridor. Some local supply deficits may occur in isolated instances by the year 2000, should major industrial developments or highway relocation projects be undertaken.

In the largely undeveloped northern portion of the District, demand for aggregate will vary according to the needs of the forest industry and those of the transportation sector. These demands can be met as projects arise.

It should be emphasized that the term “protection” used in this connotation does not imply “extraction” in all instances. Some aggregate deposits represent valuable resources which will contribute to meeting demand over the very long term (e.g. after the year 2000). In such areas, interim uses such as foresty or agriculture may be appropriate, until the resource is required.

8. PROVINCIAL PARKS

a. Goal

To provide a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities and to protect provincially significant natural, cultural and recreational environments within a system of provincial parks.

b. Objectives

(i) Protection To protect Provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.

(ii) Recreation To provide provincial park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high intensity day-use to low intensity wilderness experiences.

(iii) Heritage Appreciation To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.

(iv) Tourism To provide Ontario residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.

To assist in the achievement of parks objectives, provincial parks in Ontario have been divided into six classes; wilderness, natural environment, nature reserve, waterway, recreation and historical. The classification is intended to:

- define the role of the individual parks in achieving the objectives of the provincial park system;
- provide the basis for management of diverse resources in the system and to encourage a greater public understanding of the various roles of parks; and,
- enable managers to provide a diversity of satisfying outdoor recreation experiences to individuals.

c. Targets

Within the various provincial park classifications, the following targets have been developed for the protection of earth and life science features, historical resources, and the provision of opportunities for heritage appreciation and recreation use.

(i) Protection and Heritage Appreciation

- Earth Science: To protect the Provincially significant representative and special earth science features found in the Blind River District. A geological time scale has been developed which outlines thirty-three ancient and nine recent environments containing several hundred features in Ontario having Provincial significance. The target is to protect those features of the Blind River District which best represent certain of these environments.
- Life Science: To protect the Provincially significant life science features found in the Blind River District. The plant and animal communities which are found in an area depend upon climate and soil conditions. A classification system has been adopted which attempts to define every combination of climate, soil texture, moisture conditions and microclimate likely to be encountered in Ontario. The target is to protect a natural plant and animal community representing each of the site types found within the Blind River District.
- Historical Resources: To protect Provincially significant pre-historical and historical resources found in the Blind River District. The opportunity exists within provincial parks to represent activities such as logging, the early fur trade, early mining operations and communities. Thirteen major historical themes and 115 theme segments have been identified for Ontario. The target is to protect those pre-historical and historical resources found within the Blind River District which best represent certain of these themes and theme segments.
- Heritage Appreciation: To provide opportunities to meet the demand for exploration and appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage of the Blind River District.

(ii) Recreation and Tourism By the year 2000, to provide the following additional opportunities in provincial parks within the Blind River District for visitors to and residents of northeastern Ontario:

- day-use: 6,600 opportunities
- car-camping: 14,300 opportunities
- backcountry travel(5): 2,200 opportunities

The targets for day-use and backcountry travel recognize the anticipated population growth and future demand for tourism. Projections of the future needs have been considered in the magnitude of population changes, the changing age structure of the population and its relationship to participation in recreation activities.

d. Strategy

- encouraging tourist use of provincial parks within the District and providing additional supply, supplementary to private sector supply, when necessary;
- assisting in monitoring the capacity in provincial parks to meet the targets of 0.93 day-user days and 0.53 extended-user days per capita;
- assessing the park system within the District to determine whether sufficient opportunities exist for the exploration and appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage.
- assisting in monitoring the capacity in the District provincial parks to provide wilderness and non-wilderness back-country travel;
- conducting earth science, life science and

cultural inventories within and outside the provincial parks system; and,

- reviewing within the context of district land use planning park candidates in order to determine whether a particular candidate:
  - should be recommend for park status;
  - should be dropped from further consideration for park status; or,
  - should be identified as an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI);(6)

e. Discussion

Provincial parks play an important role in providing a wide variety of recreational opportunities, in offering protection to important natural and cultural features and in contributing to regional tourism.

The existing parks, Mississagi Provincial Park and Mississagi River Provincial Park, will continue to provide the bulk of car camping, day use and recreational opportunities for tourists and local residents.

In addition, three candidate parks have been evaluated in the planning process, and recommended for park status; Aubrey Falls (natural environment) on Highway 129, an extension to Mississagi Provincial Park (natural environment) and the Mississagi Delta (nature reserve) west of the Town of Blind River. These candidates would provide protection for a wide variety of significant natural and cultural resources.

It is recommended that the Aubrey Falls candidate and Mississagi Delta candidate be developed for park purposes as demand warrants. Until that time, these areas would be managed according to the guidelines outlined in the management area discussion, Section II-D. The extension to Mississagi Provincial Park would provide additional provincial park recreational opportunities in association with the existing park.

Table 8 indicates the existing parks and park candidates for the Blind River District.

The proposed park system will protect a variety of natural and cultural values and will provide a diversity of recreational opportunities for local residents and tourists.

To date no ANSI's have been identified within the Blind River District.

ANSI's contribute to the achievement of the Ministry's protection objective, and complement the provincial park system by providing or encouraging protection for additional areas not regulated as provincial parks.

Should ANSI's occur on public land managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry will ensure that the land uses and activities which occur provide for the protection of the identified values. On private land, the Ministry

TABLE 8 EXISTING PARKS AND PARK CANDIDATES — BLIND RIVER DISTRICT

Park/Candidate	Classification	Target Achievement	Recommendation
Mississagi River	Waterway	recreation opportunities — backcountry travel = 5,300 numerous earth and life science and cultural resources	existing park
Mississagi	Natural Environment	recreation opportunities — day-use — car camping numerous earth and life science and cultural resources	existing park
Mississagi Expansion	Natural Environment	recreation opportunities — day-use — car camping numerous earth and life science resources	recommended for park status
Aubrey Falls	Natural Environment	recreation opportunities day-use = 6,600 numerous earth and life science resources	recommended for park status
Mississagi Delta	Nature Reserve	recreation opportunities — backcountry travel = 2,200 numerous earth and life science and cultural resources	recommended for park status

will, through cooperation with others attempt to ensure that landowners are aware of significant features on their properties and seek the owner's cooperation in protecting such features. The identification of ANSI's on private land does not indicate any intent of the Ministry to acquire that land or restrain any private use.

9. TOURISM

a. Objective

To provide from public lands and waters and to encourage on other lands and waters a continuous contribution to the economy from tourism and its related industries provided that:

- the capacity of the supporting natural resources base is not exceeded; and,
- opportunities continue to exist for public use adjacent to urban centres, and general recreational use of the renewable resources by local users.

b. Target

In addition to disposing of land for commercial developments the Ministry of Natural Resources will make a direct contribution to regional tourism through the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities.

c. Strategy

- increasing dialogue with the Ministy of Tourism and Recreation concerning natural resource potential and tourist demand on those resources;
- increasing dialogue with tourist operators to foster an understanding of resource management problems and to determine agreeable solutions to such problems;
- increasing dialogue with chambers of commerce and other tourism organizations to foster a better understanding of tourism concerns;
- increasing dialogue with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture concerning the identification and preservation of historical and cultural features for interpretative purposes;
- attempting to locate known Crown land camping and recreational facilities away from areas where significant conflicts with tourist facilities may occur;
- engaging the expertise and services of tourist operators as a means of assisting in the achievement of the Ministry's recreational objectives;
- ensuring that outpost camp operations conform to existing Ministry policy, particularly in regard to such uses on lake trout lakes. Sites which do not conform, should they be abandoned by the operator and returned to the Crown, will not be made available for future use. Those sites which do not conform to the Ministry policy regarding lake trout lakes are identified in appendix E; and,
- maintaining existing commercial outpost camp sites and identifying tourism lakes, as one means of contributing to the long term protection of tourist resources. Outpost camp sites and operations which do not conform to Ministry policy will generally be afforded a level of protection equal to that given to conforming sites. The long term strategy, however, is to ensure that all outpost camp sites are located and operated according to the established policy for such uses.

d. Discussion

There are 91 approved outpost camp sites within the Blind River District. Six sites are presently unoccupied and available for disposition as demand warrants.

Appendix E discusses the Ministry's rationale for defining tourism lakes, and identifies those lakes on which certain tourism users are important. In all land use proposals affecting tourism lakes, the Ministry will ensure that adequate consideration is given to protecting tourism investments now existing.

Over the long term, the Ministry hopes to reduce the number of commercial outpost camps by phasing out 13 sites presently located on high quality lake trout lakes. Should these sites be returned to the Crown, they will not be reissued to other tourist operators. In the interim, however, these sites and improvements will continue to be available for use by licenced operators, and transfers from one operator to another will be permitted.

Tourism has always been an important component of the economy of this part of Ontario, and is expected to become even more important in the future. The management of the District's fish and wildlife resources, and the protection of recreational facilities, both Crown and private, will assist in securing the future of the tourist industry in the District.

Few areas within the District are capable of supporting additional tourist facility development. The local tourist industry has historically relied upon angling and hunting for attracting clientele; in some portions of the District, these resources are no longer capable of withstanding additional use at this time. Tourist developments which provide for the use of natural resources not now in jeopardy will be encouraged; such non-consumptive uses include camping, cross-country skiing, snowmachining, canoeing and yachting. However, those portions of the District where fisheries and wildlife surpluses are available for utilization may be available for future tourism facility development.

The existing tourism framework will continue in the District; the northern area, used primarily for fly-in outpost operations will be protected, as much as possible, from adverse development. Although the construction of logging roads in this area in the future will provide the public with road access, lakes having commercial facilities will be avoided, where feasible alternatives exist.

10. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The wildlife resource is managed to provide both recreational and commercial benefits. In addition to specific policies for wildlife recreation and fur production, there is also a need for a general policy related to wildlife management.

a. General

(i) Objective To provide optimum social and economic benefits to the residents of Ontario, consistent with the maintenance of healthy wildlife populations.

(ii) Strategy
- meeting the demand for hunting and viewing recreation opportunities for some wildlife species through the management of the species and identification and protection of their habitat;
- providing opportunities for increased appreciation of wildlife and its environment;
- identifying and protecting rare and endangered species of wildlife and their habitat;
- encouraging hunters and trappers to be adequately trained and to observe a high ethical standard;
- enforcing, and encouraging adherence to, Ontario's legislation affecting wildlife; and,
- allocating the District's wildlife resources according to the following priorities:
  - maintenance and/or rehabilitation of the resource;
  - the resource rights of Treaty Indians(7);
  - recreational benefits to the residents of Ontario; and,
  - the greatest economic benefits to Ontario.

(iii) Discussion The size, physiologic well-being and reproductive success of wildlife populations are largely dependent upon the quality and quantity of food and cover available. The capability to produce habitat is related to climate and soils. Existing habitat conditions are also dependent on the present use of land.

Demands upon all wildlife, both from hunting and recreational viewing are expected to increase over the next 20 years, particularly the demand for hunting of big game species.

b. Black Bear

(i) Objective To increase the opportunities for black bear hunting and viewing.

(ii) Target To regulate the bear harvest at 260 bear annually by the year 2000.

(iii) Strategy
- promoting black bear as a desirable big game resource to hunters and commercial outfitters;
- encouraging safe viewing opportunities for black bear;
- encouraging the total utilization of black bear taken by hunting;
- encouraging research efforts in the area of population dynamics and habitat definition;
- monitoring hunter success rates as one means of acquiring additional knowledge for setting hunting seasons; and,
- producing and implementing a District bear management plan.

(iv) Discussion The existing bear population of the Blind River District, based on an average density of .30 bear per square kilometre over the bear range, is approximately 2,600. An acceptable annual harvest level of 10 percent would permit up to 260 bear to be taken annually without adversely affecting the bear population.

Further research is required regarding the black bear habitat and population before specific management techniques can be considered. Until recent years, black bear was not a highly sought big game species. However, due to the restrictions being placed on the harvest of other big game species (moose, deer), black bear are now becoming a more attractive target for recreational hunters.

In 1975, the harvest in the District was 215 bear; due to the increase in popularity, it is estimated that the bear harvest has increased since then. Continued high harvests will deplete the bear population over time, reducing recreational opportunities. Therefore, the District will monitor the bear harvest to more closely determine acceptable hunting levels. Should unacceptable levels of hunting occur, consideration will be given to implementing hunting restrictions to preserve a viable population.

c. Commercial Fur

(i) Objective To provide opportunities for additional social and economic benefits through increased utilization of the fur resource. Fur management will promote maintenance of healthy fur bearer populations, species diversity and humane trapping practices.

(ii) Target The target is 5,000 beaver pelts and 3,600 pelts of other species to be taken annually to the year 2000.

(iii) Strategy

- continuing to support the training of trappers in the most humane and efficient harvest methods through formal courses and workshops;
- implementing a private land trapping program to ensure the number of trappers does not exceed the capability of the fur resource;
- encouraging the establishment of local trappers councils to increase professionalism in trapping;
- implementing public awareness programs to outline the role and benefits of the fur industry;
- managing fur bearers and their habitat by preserving fur bearer habitat and retaining registered traplines on Crown land;
- undertaking population surveys as required to establish appropriate quotas for beaver and other furbearing species;
- enforcing quotas and legislation related to commercial fur management;
- utilizing trappers in predator control operations when and where appropriate; and,
- producing and implementing a District fur management plan.

(iv) Discussion The primary fur bearers taken in the District in terms of economic importance are beaver, lynx, coloured fox, otter and muskrat. In the 1979-80 season, the fur harvest was valued at $250,000.00 or approximately $1,700.00 per trapper.

Very few trappers in the District rely on the industry as a primary means of employment. However, trapping is important in providing supplemental income to many District residents, and there is steady demand for trapline areas.

Further inventories of traplines will be undertaken in the future to estimate beaver populations. Once acceptable information is available, the beaver target will be re-evaluated, to ensure that no over-harvest of this species occurs.

d. Deer

(i) Objective To provide, through an increase in the deer herd size, opportunities for additional economic and recreational benefits.

(ii) Target To increase by the year 2000, the herd size within the Blind River District from approximately 2,500 to 4,000 deer and the annual harvest from 142 to 600 deer.

(iii) Strategy

- regulating the harvest on a wildlife management unit basis to biologically sound levels through such management practices as selective harvesting and season manipulation;
- redirecting hunting pressure to other wildlife management units to avoid localized over or under-harvests. The Ministry will continue to monitor deer populations, harvests and all deer habitat to ensure that a healthy and viable population is maintained;
- ensuring that deer habitat, especially winter habitat, is maintained or improved through forest management or other activities. Timber harvesting in identified shelter and browse sites will be carefully planned and carried out to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of these important habitat areas;
- implementing, when required, predator control programs;
- discouraging development of lands within the winter range which may reduce shelter areas or winter browse. In the core winter deer yard, which is situated in the vicinity of the Village of Iron Bridge, land development for residential, industrial or commercial purposes has the potential of removing habitat critical to the deer's survival. Such development must be carefully analysed and planned to ensure that effects on winter habitat are minimized;
- encouraging extension programs which will allow habitat management on private lands;
- encouraging progams to identify and protect special habitat areas such as mineral licks and travel corridors;

- providing opportunities for viewing and photographing deer; and,
- producing and implementing a District deer management plan.

(iv) Discussion In 1980, 1,492 hunters harvested 142 deer from the Blind River District. Deer hunters generated over 8,500 hunter-days and spent more than $316,000.00 in hunting activities. The hunter success rate in 1980 was significantly lower (9.7 percent) than the average of 15.6 percent realized in the previous five years. This reduction in hunter success is primarily attributable to the implementation of the antlerless permit system which has been instituted as one means of managing the Province's deer populations.

The deer herd within the Blind River District is near the northern extent of its range for this portion of Ontario. Apart from hunting stresses, the deer are affected primarily by climate and habitat conditions. The winter range is particularly important in providing shelter and browse during the time of the year when climatic effects are most pronounced. Deer require protection from the elements during severe winters and an adequate food supply, especially for does carrying fawns, is of prime importance. The core of the winter deer yard is situated primarily in the vicinity of the Village of Iron Bridge. The remaining winter range supports the deer herd during less severe winters.

e. Moose

(i) Objective To provide, through an increase in the moose herd size, opportunities for additional economic and recreational benefits.

(ii) Target To increase by the year 2000, the herd size within the Blind River District from approximately 1,900 to 3,400 moose and the annual harvest from 225 to 600 moose.

(iii) Strategy

- regulating the moose harvest on a wildlife management unit basis to biologically sound levels. As a means of increasing the herd size in the short term, it will be necessary to reduce harvests through season manipulation, quotas and other hunting restrictions over the next few years; the target is dependent upon this interim harvest reduction;
- ensuring that moose habitat is maintained or improved through forest management or other activities. Emphasis will be placed on the implementation of modified timber cutting techniques (such as restricting the extent of clearcutting operations) as a means of enhancing moose habitat;
- redirecting the hunting pressure to other wildlife management units to avoid localized over or under-harvests. The Ministry will continue to monitor moose populations and harvests to ensure that a viable and healthy herd is maintained;
- encouraging programs to identify and protect special habitat areas such as mineral licks and aquatic feeding sites;
- providing opportunities for viewing and photographing moose;
- controlling predators in problem areas through trapping or through more direct predator control programs; and,
- producing and implementing a District moose management plan.

(iv) Discussion In 1980, 2,114 hunters harvested 225 moose from the Blind River District. Moose hunting during the same year accounted for over $640,000.00 in expenditures and more than 12,000 hunter days of recreation were generated. Moose hunting is an activity enjoyed primarily by residents, with less than 4 percent of the hunting pressure being generated by non-residents.

Excessive harvesting of moose has been determined to be one of the major contributing factors in the reduction of the moose herds. It is anticipated that restricted harvests in concert with improved habitat management will increase the moose herd, permitting the harvest to more than double by the year 2000 based on a harvest rate of 17.4 percent of the winter population.

A major increase in hunting demand is anticipated over the next 20 years. Should the moose harvest be permitted to increase in proportion to this demand, depletion of the herd will be inevitable. The Ministry will continue to monitor moose populations and harvests to ensure that a viable and healthy herd is maintained.

f. Small Game

(i) Objective To manage small game in order to meet an increase in demand.

(ii) Target Harvest data for small game within the District is unavailable. Small game populations are cyclic in nature and are therefore difficult to estimate. It is felt, however, that significant additional harvest can be obtained, and demand to the year 2000 can be met.

(iii) Strategy

- improving population, habitat and harvest information as a base for more specific management;
- continuing to manage the resource to provide a hunting season for all small game species; and,
- encouraging hunter interest in small game.

(iv) Discussion Small game includes such species as ruffed, spruce and sharp-tailed grouse, varying hare, fox, woodchuck, snipe and woodcock.

It is recognized that hunting pressure is not evenly distributed across the District, but normally occurs within 80 kilometres of the population centres. Thus, it is possible that some local over-harvesting may occur. However, the dynamics of small game populations are such that population rebounds can occur over short periods of time.

g. Waterfowl

(i) Objective To contribute towards meeting the local demand for hunting and viewing opportunities.

(ii) Target District targets are not available.

(iii) Strategy

- assessing and protecting significant wetland habitat and staging areas to provide for recreational opportunities and species maintenance.

(iv) Discussion The waterfowl population of the Blind River District comprises a very small proportion of the continental population. The District is not situated within any major migratory routes and resident populations are small.

Local areas are important, however, in providing residents with hunting opportunities, and in enhancing maintenance, breeding and staging opportunities for the species.

h. Non-consumptive Uses

(i) Objectives

- to prevent additional species from becoming endangered or threatened;
- to improve the status of existing endangered or threatened species with the objective of removing them from the endangered species list; and,
- to maintain populations of all wildlife species (both non-game and game) at levels sufficient to:
  - provide opportunities for recreational enjoyment, aesthetic appreciation, scientific investigation and educational uses;
    - provide benefits from tourism;
  - ensure environmental quality and ecosystem integrity; and,
  - ensure the safety of the public.

(ii) Strategy

- protecting, conserving and managing all wildlife species (both non-game and game) on public and private lands, and ensuring the perpetuation of diverse high quality habitat;
- identifying populations of endangered, threatened or rare species (both non-game and game) and populations of significant wildlife species within the District. Specific wildlife management techniques will be implemented to protect or manage these populations, should scientific, social and economic data indicate that such action is necessary to achieve the above objectives;
- working cooperatively with government agencies at the Federal, Provincial and municipal levels, and with private land owners, developers and other members of the private sector to achieve protection of all wildlife resources (both non-game and game);
- increasing non-government participation in identifying and managing wildlife, particularly with respect to endangered, threatened or rare species; and,
- providing extension services which promote an understanding of the value of wildlife resources and non-consumptive uses, and which enhance social benefits and tourism.

Sites or habitat areas of significance to endangered, threatened or rare species and of importance to populations of significant wildlife species will be afforded protection from adverse uses on a basis similar to that established in the MMA policy (Section II B:4(j)). As an initial position, a modified management area will be assumed to be necessary around all significant wildlife habitat areas. Suggested widths of such modified management areas will be established by the District Manager according to the severity of the potential impact and the specific species, population or habitat in question. For the following, the suggested minimum modified management areas are:

- for active eagle nests, osprey nests, heronries and cormorant colonies - 1,000 metres; and,

- for waterways containing significant wildlife cover and wildlife travel corridors - 30 metres.

(iii) Discussion Few endangered, threatened or rare wildlife species are known to exist in the Blind River District at the present time. Bald eagles and golden eagles are occasionally observed in portions of the District, but no nesting sites have been confirmed. Eastern cougar sightings have been reported but not confirmed.

Wildlife viewing activities and general appreciation of our natural wildlife resources have become more popular in recent years. Ample opportunities exist in the District for these non-consumptive uses of wildlife.

Approximately 20 active heronries are known to exist in the District and four active cormorant colonies are located on the North Channel of Lake Huron. Viewing of game species - deer, bear and moose-can be enjoyed in many parts of the District throughout the year.

The policy for non-consumptive wildlife uses will ensure that our natural wildlife heritage will be protected from adverse uses, for the enjoyment of future generations.

11. WILD RICE

a. Broad Objective

To provide sustained optimium social and economic benefits to the people of Ontario by stimulating the use and management of wild rice, recognizing its traditional significance and potential economic benefits to native people.

b. Objectives

- to provide a source of food for native people and other local residents;
- to allocate harvesting rights for personal use and commercial purposes, among all interested Ontario residents and corporations, consistent with the requirements of traditional users;
- to provide opportunities to increase the productive areas for cultivating wild rice and to enhance quality and yields, particularly in natural waters;
- to stabilize annual production; and,
- to improve the overall economic return to harvesters, processors, marketers, and others involved in the wild rice industry.

c. Target

No wild rice target has been assigned to the District.

d. Strategy

- assessing the potential for expansion through an investigation of the extent and stability of existing wild rice stands as well as the feasibility of introducing new stands;
- considering commercial and private proposals to increase productivity areas for cultivating and harvesting wild rice on a case by case basis where biological conditions are suitable and where resource conflicts can be resolved;
- restricting the issuance of harvesting licences in areas where it would be in conflict with waterfowl management; and,
- discouraging shoreline and other development which would have an adverse impact upon wild rice stands.

Commercial and private potential for the harvest of existing wild rice stands is extremely limited. Consequently, Ministry management efforts will be directed primarily to the protection and expansion of wild rice stands to enhance waterfowl production.

e. Discussion

The potential for an expansion of wild rice harvesting in the District is unknown. Existing stands are scattered and small in area. Water level fluctuation would appear to limit the feasibility of extensive introductions of wild rice. There is no wild rice industry in existence at this time.

12. SUMMARY - TARGET ACHIEVEMENT

Table 9 summarizes the targets to be achieved in the Blind River District to the year 2000. The figures have been rounded, recognizing that a finite degree of preciseness at this broad level of detail is not realistic. The targets reflect the mix of resource activities to be carried out within the District. Strategies indicating how these various targets can be achieved have been discussed previously in the Resource Policy section of this document.

TABLE 9 SUMMARY-TARGET ACHIEVEMENT

Program	District Targets(1) (year 2000)
Agriculture	63 ha cleared Crown land, 1,700 ha cleared private land, 750 ha forested private land.
Cottaging	No target
Crown Land Recreation	No target
Fisheries Management	
a. Commercial Fishing	Harvest of 210,000 kg/year from Lake Huron.
b. Lake Trout	Protect 204 lake trout lakes as follows: A_1 = 80 A_2 = 29 B_1 = 83 B_2 = 12
c. Sport Fish	Harvest of 104,000 kg/year from inland waters.
Forestry	482,000 NMm^3/year of conifer 397,000 NMm^3/year of hardwood
Minerals	
a. Mineral Aggregate	40,000,000 tonnes
b. Mining	No stated targets, although 95% of high, 100% of medium and 85% of low mineral potential lands are open for exploration.
Provincial Parks	6,600 additional day-use opportunities, 14,300 additional car-camping opportunities and 2,200 additional backcountry travel opportunities annually within provincial parks.
Tourism	No stated target. 6 additional sites will be made available for outpost camp operations, and 13 non-conforming sites will be phased out over the long term.
Wildlife Management	
a. Black Bear	Harvest of 260 bear per year.
b. Commercial Fur	Harvest of 5,000 beaver and 3,600 other pelts per year.
c. Deer	Total population of 4,000 deer and a harvest of 600 deer per year.
d. Moose	Total population of 3,400 moose and a harvest of 600 moose per year.
e. Small Game	Meet hunter demand.
f. Waterfowl	No target
g. Non-Consumptive Uses	No target
Wild Rice	No target

(1) *Targets expressed in this table are defined as Targets assigned through strategic land use planning for achievement in the District. These targets may differ from targets expressed in the* ***Northeastern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan*** *for a number of reasons. For example:*

a) The ***Strategic Land Use Plan*** *timber and wildlife targets are expressed by management units which do not necessarily coincide with District administrative boundaries. District planning targets have been adjusted and expressed by District administrative boundary.*

b) Some ***Strategic Land Use Plan*** *targets were expressed by Region only and not distributed to each District. Black bear harvest targets are an example. They have subsequently been evaluated and assigned by Region to each District.*

c) Further analysis and refinement of the ***Strategic Land Use Plan*** *targets have resulted in a re-distribution of targets to Districts. This is the case with the fur targets.*

D: land use areas — guidelines

The District has been divided into 28 separate areas. The rationale for the division of the planning area into the smaller areas is based on the premise that the activity or mix of activities in one area is significantly different from that in adjacent areas or is carried out under different conditions.

The format for presentation of each separate area consists of three parts:

a. Area Description
This identifies the location of the area, the present use and level of development, major resource values, previous commitments (e.g. timber licences on Crown land) and known problems and issues.

b. Land Use Intent
This gives the general role of the area and indicates, where applicable the priority of uses permitted on Crown land.

c. Land Use Activity
This lists the individual activities and developments on Crown land along with applicable guidelines. Ministry concerns about private land uses are noted where applicable.

All areas are numbered for identification purposes. The area activity form must be read in its entirety to determine the range of uses permitted and any applicable guidelines or conditions.

Where applicable the primary and secondary uses are indicated for the area. The term primary is used to convey the meaning of priority rather than intensity or abundance of use. Secondary means that a use is permitted so long as it does not conflict with the primary use of the area. Where there is a conflict in a specific area, the primary use will normally take precedence. However, there will be instances where the secondary uses, e.g. tourism, will require specific considerations in a particular portion of the area. This will require the primary use, often forestry, to adhere to the special guidelines such as the access roads and MMA guidelines.

Where there is an increasing conflict with the primary use, site specific negotiations between the conflicting parties and the Ministry will attempt to resolve the conflict. Expansion of existing uses will generally be considered where it will not conflict with other uses. For example, Crown land might be made available for an individual resort to expand if its own land base is inadequate. In some areas certain uses will not be permitted to expand, Crown cottaging development for example, but existing cottage use would continue unaffected. In some instances the Ministry may wish to phase out or alter existing uses. New or unanticipated land uses may be permitted on Crown land subject to individual assessment.

Land uses on private land will generally not be objected to unless otherwise specified or restricted by legislation. The Ministry recognizes that its land use guidelines have no legal status and that land use control of private land rests with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) or designated municipalities. There will be occasions when the Ministry feels that certain land uses or proposed development on private land, while in conformity with municipal official planning documents, will have a negative impact on Ministry interests. In such situations, the Ministry will attempt to resolve the problem through discussions with the proponent, the municipality and MMAH. If the Ministry is not satisfied with the results of the negotiations they may consider taking further action under the procedures provided for by the *Planning Act* and in accordance with Ministry policy. Therefore, where the Ministry's land use guidelines indicate that it would prefer not to see certain land uses take place on private land, this is the position the Ministry will generally adopt when making input to official plans or zoning by-laws and when responding to the circulation for comment of private proposals by

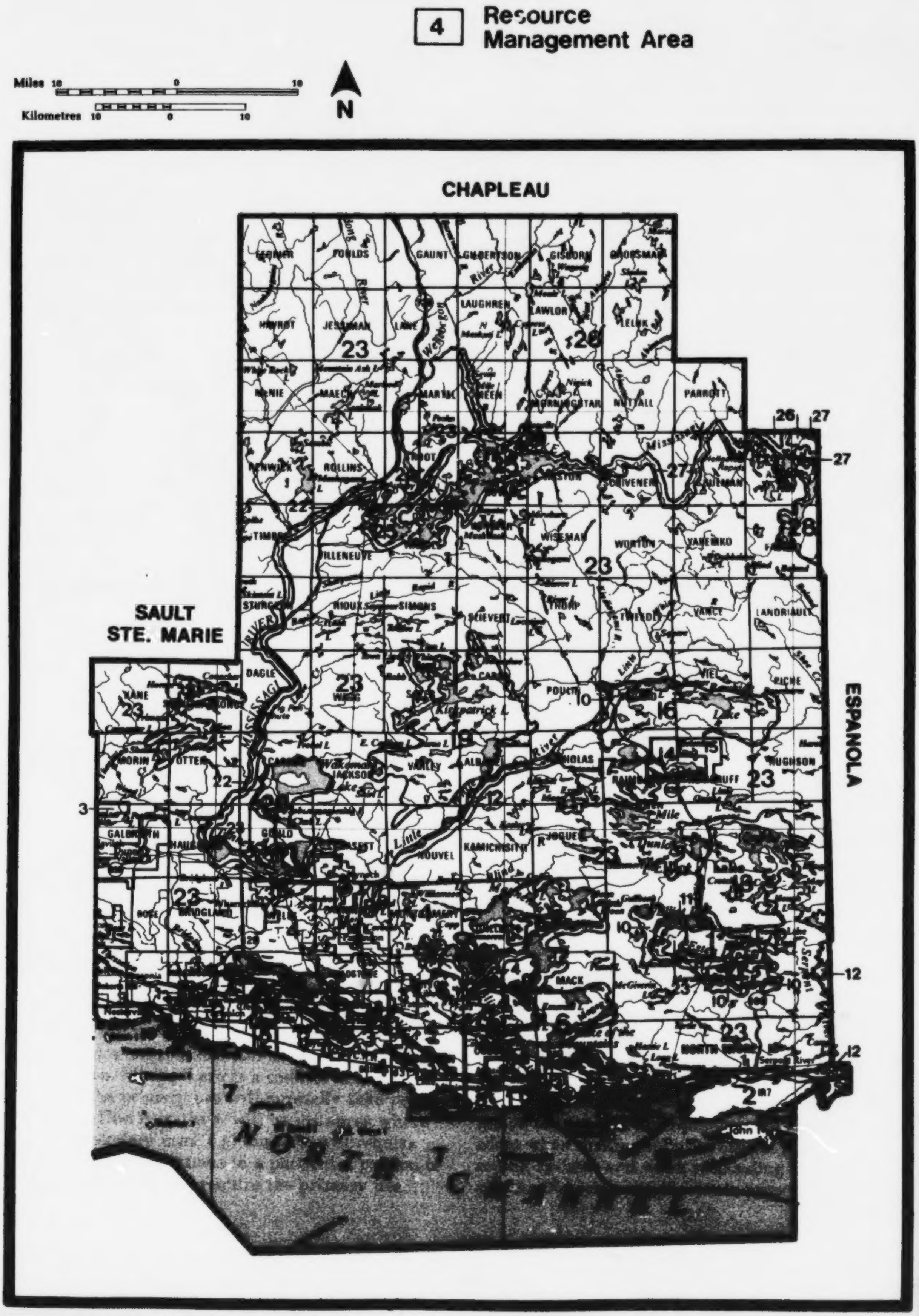
MMAH or the municipality. Such responses will be restricted to concerns within the Ministry mandate.

Additional operational and development guidelines, such as those for roads and modified management areas, will be incorporated into resource management plans developed to guide activities within each area in order to prevent or reduce any conflict with other uses, especially the primary and secondary uses. Where land tenure documents are granted, they will contain similar conditions for the same purpose.

While Indian Reserve lands are not subject to Provincial control, it is anticipated that future development on Indian Reserves would be compatible with the intent established for the area adjacent to the Reserve.

Map 2

BLIND RIVER DISTRICT


4
Resource Management Area
Miles 10 0 10
Kilometres 10 0 10
N
CHAPLEAU
SAULT STE. MARIE
ESPANOLA
NORTH CHANNEL
MISSISSAGI RIVER
FOULDS
GAUNT
GILBERTSON
GISBORN
LAUGHREN
LAWLOR
JESSIMAN
LANE
MCNIE
MAECK
MARTEL
NUTTALL
PARROTT
ROLLINS
VILLENEUVE
WISEMAN
WORTON
YAREMKO
STURGEON
RIOUX
SIMONS
SCIEVERT
THORP
VANCE
LANDRIAULT
DAGLE
WELLS
POULIN
PICHE
MORIN
OTTER
JACKSON
VALLEY
ALBANEL
NOLAS
HUGHSON
GALBRAITH
GOULD
NOUVEL
KAMICHISITIT
JOCQUES
ROSE
BRIDGLAND
MACK
Kirkpatrick L.
Little
Wenebegon
Serpent River
23
26
27
22
28
16
14
15
10
11
12
3
7
2
17

1. URBAN AREAS

a. Area Description

Urban areas are generally located along the Highway 17 corridor in the southern portion of the District and also at Elliot Lake. This area includes the built up portions of established municipalities and other urban developments which are situated outside of municipal boundaries. These include the following communities: Nestorville, Thessalon, Little Rapids, Iron Bridge, Blind River, Algoma Mills, Spragge, Serpent River and Elliot Lake.

b. Land Use Intent

Land uses within this area are generally restricted to those related to residential, industrial, commercial and other uses which are associated with urban development. Land uses are usually regulated through municipal official plans and controlled through zoning by-laws in organized areas. Land uses in unorganized areas may be controlled through zoning orders administered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Generally, Crown lands within urban areas will be disposed of only for those uses which are compatible with the existing urban development. Provincial and municipal land disposition policies will provide additional guidance in this regard.

With few exceptions, urban areas have not been considered in the evaluation of the achievability of Ministry objectives and targets.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 1 - URBAN AREAS

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Development of onshore commercial fishing facilities is encouraged along the Lake Huron shoreline.
Cottaging		x	
Crown Land Recreation		x	
Forestry		x	
Hunting	x		According to Provincial and municipal regulations.
Mining	x		Mineral exploration and staking out on lands not presently withdrawn under the *Mining Act* are permitted. Mining developments may be permitted subject to the provisions of the applicable official plan, zoning by-law or zoning order.
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		
Rural Residential	x		On private land only and where applicable subject to approved official plans.

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Sport Fishing	x		Spawning facilities and significant fish populations within urban areas will be protected from disturbances. Important fisheries resources exist in the following portions of this area: Thessalon River, Mississagi River, Blind River, Lauzon Creek and the lakes within the Town of Elliot Lake urban area. Slipper Lake is designated under the lake trout policy.
Tourism	x		
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		Opportunities for viewing wildlife (deer) are available in the Village of Iron Bridge.
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development	x		Specific land uses vary from municipality to municipality. For appropriate information on permitted uses, the applicable municipal planning documents should be consulted.

2. INDIAN RESERVES

a. Area Description

Three Indian Reserves are situated within the Blind River District:

- the Thessalon Indian Reserve No. 12 is situated south of Highway 17, 9.6 kilometres east of the Town of Thessalon. The Reserve is 980 hectares in size, has frontage on the North Channel of Lake Huron and has a population of 66 (1976);
- the Mississagi Indian Reserve No. 8 is situated on Highway 17, 5 kilometres west of the Town of Blind River. The Reserve is 1,800 hectares in size, has frontage on Blind River and Mississagi River, and has a population of 333 (1976); and,
- the Serpent River Indian Reserve No. 7 is situated south of Highway 17, 30 kilometres east of the Town of Blind River. The Reserve is 10,600 hectares in size, has frontage on the Serpent River and North Channel of Lake Huron, and has a resident population of 175 (1976).

All three reserves were originally established with the signing of the Robinson Huron Treaty in 1850.

b. Land Use Intent

Use of Reserve lands comes under the direct administrative control of the Federal Government. The uses within Indian Reserves are, therefore, outside the control of the Ministry and their resources have not been considered in the evaluation of the achievability of Ministry objectives and targets.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 2 - INDIAN RESERVES

It is hoped that future development within Indian Reserves will be compatible with the intent for areas adjacent to the Reserves. The Ministry will provide, at the request of the Federal Government or Indian Band Council, assistance in resource management where it is feasible and appropriate.

By agreement with the Federal Government, the Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for forest fire management on Indian Reserves.

3. AGRICULTURAL LANDS

a. Area Description

Agricultural lands are generally located in the southern and western portions of the District. The stoney and rocky nature of much of this area, coupled with the historically small size of pasture lands, has resulted in a complex pattern of active and abandoned farmland separated by forest, rock outcrops and other land types having low agricultural capability.

Situated within this area are forest resources, aggregate deposits, significant fisheries and wildlife habitat, areas of high mineral potential and cottage developments.

The following agricultural communities are represented in this area: Blind River (High Road Area), Dean Lake, Patton, Parkinson, Kynoch, Wharncliffe, Dayton, Livingstone Creek, Sowerby, Cloudslee, Ansonia, Roberts Hill, Dunn's Valley, and areas adjacent to Poplar Dale, Rock Lake, Ophir and Rydal Bank, which are situated in the Sault Ste. Marie Administrative District.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to encourge the continued use of the area for agricultural purposes, and to provide for the expansion of agricultural operations on the area's high capability lands.

On lands not required for agricultural purposes to the year 2000, other land uses are encouraged, subject to the guidelines described below. Forest management, particularly on private lands, and habitat management for deer will be encouraged. Cottaging activities will generally be restricted to private land along the North Channel of Lake Huron.

Critical agricultural lands in Crown ownership will not be disposed of for other than agricultural purposes. Other Crown lands will generally not be disposed of for uses which may conflict with established agricultural operations; requests for disposition will be evaluated on a case by case basis, having regard to Ministry programs and the disposition policy contained in this document.

Portions of the area around Iron Bridge, Patton, Parkinson, Kynoch, Wharncliffe and Sowerby contain significant winter deer habitat. In these locations, wildlife management for deer on lands not under active agricultural use will be encouraged.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 3 - AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		Progressive rehabilitation will be encouraged on lands having high capability for agriculture or forestry.
Agriculture	x		As a means of supporting the agriculture industry, the Ministry will make available up to 63 hectares of cleared Crown land for use by existing farming operations, from the following locations: **Galbraith Twp**: Pt. Lot 1, Con. V (6 ha.), Pt. Lot 2, Con. IV (2.8 ha.), Pt. Lot 3, Con. IV (16.0 ha.), Pt. Lot 6, Con. II (15.0 ha.) **Parkinson Twp**: Pt. Lot 3. Con. II (6.0 ha.) **Gladstone Twp**: Pt. Lot 8, Con. VI (13.0 ha.) **Montgomery Twp**: Pt. Lot 12, Con. I (6.0 ha.) **Patton Twp**: Pt. Lot 9, Con. V (2.0 ha.)
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing		x	

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Cottaging		x	Additional cottage developments on private land along the Lake Huron shoreline are acceptable subject to municipal regulations and environmental conditions. No Crown cottage lots will be developed.
Crown Land Recreation	x		The Ministry will assist private organizations in the development of trail systems where no conflicts with other Ministry programs have been identified.
Forestry	x		On lands not required for agricultural purposes to the year 2000, forest management will be encouraged. Forestry operations on private woodlots and on Crown land will be geared to the enhancement of deer habitat, as well as for the production of wood fibre.
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		Mining developments will be encouraged to locate away from agricultural communities and high capability agricultural lands.
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		
Rural Residential	x		Will be encouraged within existing rural communities.
Sport Fishing	x		Sport fishing will be encouraged. Spawning facilities along the Thessalon River, Mississagi River, Little Thessalon River and Livingstone Creek will receive high priority for protection. Land uses which may create undesirable impacts on these resources will be discouraged.
Tourism	x		Additional tourism developments will be encouraged along existing major highways (Hwy. 17, Hwy. 129) and lakeshores where the impact on agricultural uses will be minimal.
Trapping	x		Predator control through trapping will be considered in winter deer habitat areas, where appropriate.
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

4. WINTER DEER HABITAT

a. Area Description

The winter habitat for the majority of the District's deer population is situated in the south-central portion of the District and is comprised of ten geographic townships centred around the Village of Iron Bridge. Scattered throughout this area are numerous sites of varying size which offer deer shelter, food sources and open areas for travel, grazing and sunning. Other land uses in the area include forestry, recreation, cottaging and rural residential development. A Hydro generating station is located at Red Rock Lake.

b. Land Use Intent

The Ministry will manage Crown lands and will attempt to influence the use of private lands in a manner which will benefit the wintering deer populations. Forest management practices will play a large part in maintaining or improving the habitat. The existing pattern of land use will be preserved, but new development and disposition of Crown land will consider the impact on deer populations.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 4 - WINTER DEER HABITAT

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		Will be discouraged in critical habitat areas.
Agriculture		x	Private land only.
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Will only be permitted where benefits to existing fisheries are anticipated.
Cottaging		x	Private land only. No Crown lands will be made available.
Crown Land Recreation	x		Existing facilities will be maintained.
Forestry	x		In critical deer habitat areas, specific forest management techniques will be implemented to ensure that, where possible, adequate shelter areas are retained or improved. Land disposition which may restrict access to Crown timber resources will be discouraged.
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		Road proposals will be evaluated on their potential impact on deer herds. The Demorest Lake Road, north of Chiblow Lake and Little Chiblow Lake, will continue to be closed to public travel.
Rural Residential	x		Will be encouraged to locate away from critical deer habitat areas.

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Sport Fishing	x		Emphasis will be given to management in the Mississagi River and Little White River. The following lakes have been designated for protection under the lake trout policy: Williamson, Woodrow, Constance, Beecher, Crosby, Hess and Greg Lakes.
Tourism	x		Expansion of existing lodges will be permitted. Crown land will generally not be made available for the development of new facilities, except where no impacts on wildlife and fisheries populations are anticipated. Commercial tourism operations on Pepler Lake and Howard Lake will be protected, as much as possible, from conflicting uses.
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		Ample opportunities for viewing deer during the yarding season are available.
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

5. BASSWOOD/BRIGHT SYSTEM

a. Area Description

Big Basswood Lake, Bright Lake and Hagen Lake comprise a major recreational area between Thessalon and Iron Bridge in the southern portion of the District. These lakes contain close to 300 cottages, 6 commercial lodges and provide excellent angling, boating and day use opportunities.

The management area includes the above three lakes and their backshore areas a distance of approximately 120 metres from the shoreline.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to preserve the existing mix of recreational uses in the area, and to maintain the lake trout fishery on Big Basswood Lake.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 5 - BASSWOOD/BRIGHT SYSTEM

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction		x	
Agriculture	x		Existing operations only.
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing		x	
Cottaging		x	Private land only. No Crown cottage lots will be made available.
Crown Land Recreation	x		No expansion to existing Ministry facilities.
Forestry	x		The MMA policy will strictly apply to this area.
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		Exploration is permitted. Surface developments will be discouraged within 120 metres of the lakes.
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		New public access to the lakes will be discouraged.
Rural Residential	x		Permitted subject to offical plans and zoning bylaws.
Sport Fishing	x		Big Basswood Lake is designated under the lake trout policy and will be managed to maintain the existing high quality lake trout fishery. Bright Lake will be managed as a warm water fishery.
Tourism	x		Expansion of existing facilities will be encouraged where no unacceptable impacts on fisheries resources are anticipated.

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

6. MATINENDA/LAUZON SYSTEM

a. Area Description

This area includes a number of major recreational lake systems situated north of Blind River. The major lakes included are: Lauzon Lake, Lake Duborne, Granary Lake, Emerald Lake, Matinenda Lake, Big Moon Lake, Bay Lake, Chiblow Lake, Little Chiblow Lake, Darrell Lake, Lear Lake, Bearhead Lake and Canoe Lake. Existing uses are heavily recreationally oriented and include cottaging, tourism, angling, boating, camping and day use recreation.

Unless otherwise indicated, the management area encompasses all lakes and waterways and their backshore areas a distance of approximately 120 metres back from the highwater mark.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to provide for the continued mix of existing recreational uses, and to ensure the survival and maintenance of healthy fish populations for angling purposes. Disposition of Crown land for new developments on lakes and rivers will be discouraged.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 6 - MATINENDA/LAUZON SYSTEM

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		Operations will be permitted only in areas where no impacts on existing recreational uses or fisheries populations are anticipated.
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Permitted only where benefits to existing fisheries are anticipated.
Cottaging		x	Private land only. No Crown cottage lots will be developed.
Crown Land Recreation	x		The Ministry will monitor use at existing public access points to determine requirements for expansion, if warranted. Alternative means of providing access to Matinenda Lake will be investigated. The isolated nature of the lakes north of Matinenda Lake will be preserved.
Forestry	x		The MMA policy will receive special emphasis in this area. Users will be notified in advance of timber harvesting operations occurring near cottage developments.
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		Exploration is acceptable. Developments will be encouraged to locate away from existing recreational developments. Preservation of environmental quality throughout the area will be stressed.

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		Resource extraction roads are permitted. New access to lakes in the area will be discouraged.
Rural Residential	x		Permitted subject to the applicable zoning orders, by-laws and official plans.
Sport Fishing	x		The following lakes have been designated under the lake trout policy: Little Chiblow, Chiblow, Lear, Matinenda, Coffee, Duck, Boundary, Bay, Cream, Big Moon, Little Moon, Emerald, Peak, Granary, Duborne and Lauzon. Management efforts will be emphasized on the more heavily angled lakes of this group.
Tourism	x		Expansions to existing facilities will be permitted. Crown land will be made available only where no unacceptable impacts on fish and wildlife resources are anticipated.
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

7. NORTH CHANNEL WEST

a. Area Description

This area includes that portion of the North Channel of Lake Huron west of the Town of Blind River. Existing uses include commercial fishing, angling, boating and cottaging. The rocky nature of much of the shoreline and the lack of offshore islands restricts the type and amount of recreation which can occur in this area.

The northern boundary of this area follows the normal highwater mark of Lake Huron.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to protect the existing commercial fishery and fish spawning areas from adverse uses. Recreational uses will be permitted in most areas.

Disposition of Crown lands in offshore areas will not be permitted, except for water lots for private or public use, subject to official plans, zoning by-laws and zoning orders, where no adverse impacts on Ministry programs are anticipated.

Protection of nesting sites for migratory species will be emphasized.

Land under the waters of Lake Huron and all islands in this area are withdrawn from exploration and staking out under the *Mining Act*. Onshore mining developments may expand underground, outward under the North Channel, provided this is in accord with existing international agreements.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 7 - NORTH CHANNEL WEST

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction		x	
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Known spawning beds for commercial species will be protected from adverse developments. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within 1 kilometre of the mouth of any stream, creek or river, except by dip, pond, or seine net and unless authorized by a licence. Commercial fishing is not permitted in the following areas: a. In Mississagi Bay, inside a line passing through the western extremities of Sayers and Tonty Islands; b. Within 805 metres of shore, west of Macbeth Bay; c. Inside a line commencing 1.6 kilometres east of Patrick Point, southwesterly to a black Dept. of Transport marker, then northwesterly to the southern most tip of Hennepin Island; d. From April 15 to freeze-up inside a line commencing 1.6 kilometres east of Patrick Point, southwesterly to a black Dept. of Transport marker, then east to a red Dept. of Transport marker and northeasterly to the area boundary.

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Cottaging		x	Private land only. No Crown cottage lots will be made available.
Crown Land Recreation	x		
Forestry		x	
Hunting	x		
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads		x	
Rural Residential		x	
Sport Fishing	x		
Tourism		x	
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

8. MISSISSAGI DELTA

a. Area Description

The Mississagi River delta is situated on the North Channel of Lake Huron west of the Town of Blind River and is 2,175 hectares in size.

Rich in historical, archaeological and geomorphological features, the delta area also offers boating, camping, angling and waterfowl hunting opportunities. Several excellent sand beaches offer fine swimming opportunities as well.

Access to the area is limited to watercraft. Recreation use is expected to increase, possibly placing certain sensitive archaeological and historic sites in jeopardy. A cormorant colony and heronry are situated within the area, and the delta is an important staging and breeding area for waterfowl.

Existing development is limited to 2 summer cottages, although several islands and a portion of the mainland are privately owned.

Unless otherwise indicated, the boundaries of this area follow the eastern and northern banks of the Mississagi River and the shoreline of Lake Huron.

b. Land Use Intent

This area is recommended for park status.

Inclusion within the parks system will protect a variety of significant archaeological and historic features and preserve representative earth and life science features of site district 5E1.

It is further recommended that the existing recreational angling, waterfowl hunting and boating uses will be permitted to continue. Additional guidelines for activities within the area may be developed in the future, should environmental deterioration occur as a result of uncontrolled recreational use. Other refinement may also be required.

The existing heronry and cormorant colony, as well as other significant flora and fauna, will be protected through the various resource programs of the Ministry.

Priority will be given to acquiring lands containing significant interpretative resources.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 8 - MISSISSAGI DELTA

Activity	Acceptable		Recommended Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction		x	
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing		x	
Commercial Fishing		x	
Cottaging		x	Existing cottages will be phased out over time.
Crown Land Recreation		x	Existing camping activities will be phased out in the future. It is recommended that boating be permitted to continue.
Forestry		x	
Hunting	x		It is recommended that waterfowl hunting be permitted to continue. Other hunting activities to be phased out over time.

Activity	Acceptable		Recommended Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Mining		x	
Provincial Parks	x		Recommended for park status.
Roads		x	
Rural Residential		x	
Sport Fishing	x		It is recommended that sport fishing be permitted to continue.
Tourism		x	
Trapping		x	It is recommended that the existing trapline be phased out in a manner least harmful to the licencee. No transfer of licences will be permitted.
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

9. NORTH CHANNEL EAST

a. Area Description

This area encompasses that portion of the North Channel of Lake Huron east of Blind River and includes portions of the shoreline south of Highway 17.

The area contains some of the best inland boating and yachting waters in the Province, part of which is within the North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve (NGBRR). The main concepts of the *NGBRR Plan* have been retained, in these *Land Use Guidelines*, particularly with respect to the protection and preservation of the area's high quality recreational features.

In addition to boating, camping and day-use recreation, this area is also used for cottaging, angling and commercial fishing.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to manage the area for recreational uses such as boating, angling and camping, and to maintain the existing commercial fishery. Important yachting harbours, such as John Harbour and Moiles Harbour will be protected from adverse developments.

Land disposition in offshore areas will not be permitted, except for water lots for private or public use, subject to official plans, zoning bylaws and zoning orders, where no adverse effects on Ministry programs are anticipated. Land disposition along the shoreline may be permitted for uses which are complementary to the recreational intent of the area. The Ministry will ensure however, that sites having potential for public recreational use will remain in public ownership.

Protection of nesting sites for migratory waterfowl species will be emphasized.

Expansion of existing industrial uses will be permitted where such expansions will not jeopardize recreational or fishery resources. New industrial uses will be discouraged.

Lands under the waters of Lake Huron and all islands in this area which are presently open for mineral exploration will be withdrawn from exploration and staking out under the appropriate section of the *Mining Act*. Onshore mining developments may expand underground, outward under the North Channel, provided this is in accord with existing international agreements.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 9 - NORTH CHANNEL EAST

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		On mainland sites only, not within 120 metres of the shoreline.
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Known spawning beds for commercial species will be protected from adverse developments. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within 1 kilometre of the mouth of any stream, creek or river, except by dip, pond or seine net and unless authorized by licence.
Cottaging		x	New cottages are permitted on the mainland only, on private land. No Crown cottage lots will be made available.
Crown Land Recreation	x		Recreational beaches, anchorages and other sites having potential for public recreational use will be protected from conflicting uses.

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Forestry	x		On the mainland only; emphasis will be given toward the development of fuelwood lot operations.
Hunting	x		
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		On mainland only.
Rural Residential	x		On mainland only, subject to applicable official plans, zoning by-laws and zoning orders.
Sport Fishing	x		All critical spawning beds and migratory streams will be protected from adverse developments.
Tourism	x		On mainland only.
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

10. AGGREGATE SITES

a. Area Description

Critical aggregate areas required for the protection of aggregate resources for future use have been identified in several locations across the District. These large, high quality aggregate sources are located as follows: west of Thessalon on Hwy. 17; Maple Ridge; at the junction of Hwy. 546 and 639; and several deposits south of the Town of Elliot Lake.

These areas contain significant deposits of high quality aggregate, in proximity to demand centres. The inactive portions of these sites often contain excellent timber resources.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to provide for aggregate extraction and to protect critical aggregate deposits. Other land uses, such as forestry and agriculture, may be permitted on exhausted aggregate sites.

Requests for land disposition will be evaluated on a case by case basis, having regard to Ministry programs and the disposition policy contained in this document.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 10 - AGGREGATE SITES

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		Land disposition will be discouraged for uses which may result in sterilization of the resource. Rehabilitation for forestry or agriculture will be encouraged. Areas licenced to gravel operators will be kept to the minimum required for extraction and operations.
Agriculture	x		As an interim use prior to extraction, and as a final use in appropriate areas after extraction has ceased.
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing		x	
Cottaging		x	
Crown Land Recreation	x		No development of formal facilities will be permitted.
Forestry	x		Natural regeneration of harvested areas will be encouraged, where aggregate operations have not commenced. After operations have ceased, forestry will be encouraged in appropriate areas.
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		As necessary for resource extraction activities.

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Rural Residential		x	May be acceptable after resource extraction ceases.
Sport Fishing	x		Some stream fishing opportunities may be available.
Tourism		x	
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

11. ELLIOT LAKE WATERWAY

a. Area Description

This area is comprised of a portion of the upper Serpent River watershed which surrounds the built-up portion of the Town of Elliot Lake, downstream to Depot Lake. This is a popular day- use area which is expected to receive additional use in the future.

Apart from the Town of Elliot Lake, the majority of this area is undeveloped Crown land, with the exception of an eight lot cottage subdivision on Marshland Lake.

Included in the area are the following lakes: Elliot, Quimby, Esten, Marshland, Grandeur, Trout and Depot. The management area encompasses these lakes, the adjoining waterways and backshore areas a distance of approximately 120 metres from the shoreline.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to provide passive (e.g. non-structural) recreational uses for local residents and tourists. Day-use, angling, boating and camping will be emphasized.

Shoreline development will be regulated to permit a continuation and expansion of these uses.

Crown land will be disposed of only for those uses which are complementary to the proposed recreational intent for the area, and which are permitted under the official plan and zoning by-law.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 11 - ELLIOT LAKE WATERWAY

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction		x	
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
Cottaging		x	The existing subdivision on Marshland Lake will remain; no Crown cottage lots will be made available.
Crown Land Recreation	x		Existing public access facilities will be maintained. New access facilities may be permitted where such will enhance the recreational use of the waterway.
Forestry	x		The MMA policy will strictly apply to this area.
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		Exploration is permitted. Surface developments will be discouraged within 120 metres of the lakes.
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		New stream crossings will be discouraged.
Rural Residential		x	

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Sport Fishing	x		The following lakes are designated under the lake trout policy: Elliot, Quimby, Esten, Grandeur and Depot.
Tourism		x	
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

12. SERPENT RIVER

a. Area Description

This area is situated along the eastern boundary of the District, and includes lands to the east of the Serpent River, downstream of Pecors Lake.

The area is complementary to a management area in the Espanola District, where forestry, tourism and mining are the preferred uses.

The Serpent River and a portion of McCarthy Lake are situated in the area. The Serpent River water quality is considered poor due to the effects of the uranium mining operations in the Elliot Lake area. Recent improvements in treatment facilities have resulted in improving water quality conditions.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to manage the area for extractive operations such as forestry and mining, and to support tourism activities.

Requests for land disposition will be evaluated on a case by case basis, having regard to Ministry programs and the disposition policy contained in this document.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 12 - SERPENT RIVER

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
Cottaging		x	
Crown Land Recreation	x		Available but not encouraged, due to water quality constraints.
Forestry	x		
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		New access to water will be evaluated on a case- by-case basis.
Rural Residential		x	
Sport Fishing	x		Quality of angling may be affected by poor water quality conditions. McCarthy Lake is designated under the lake trout policy.
Tourism	x		

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		Area has good potential for viewing moose.
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

13. URANIUM MINES

a. Area Description

This area includes the developments associated with the operation of existing and former uranium mines in the Elliot Lake area. Active and abandoned mines, milling operations, tailings ponds, water diversions, aggregate extraction sites and road systems are present.

Poor water quality throughout the portion of the Serpent River watershed in this area limits recreational use, but many of the smaller lakes unaffected by past tailings discharges are utilized by local anglers.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is mineral exploration/extraction. Fisheries management programs will be undertaken to enhance the angling quality on some of the smaller lakes in the area, through the development and/or maintenance of self- sustaining or put-delay-and-take fisheries.

Land disposition will generally be restricted to approved mining and municipal uses.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 13 - URANIUM MINES

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		Existing aggregate extraction areas will be protected from conflicting uses. Undeveloped deposits along Hwy. 108 and northwest of Banana Lake will be protected and managed for aggregate purposes only.
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Will only be permitted where benefits to existing fisheries are anticipated.
Cottaging		x	
Crown Land Recreation	x		Apart from angling, Crown land recreation will not be a major use, and will not be encouraged.
Forestry	x		
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		Mineral exploration/extraction will receive priority in this area. Mining developments will be required to meet all relevant Provincial and Federal criteria for siting and operations. Environmental protection is one important aspect which must be considered in any development.
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		
Rural Residential	x		Rural residential uses will be permitted subject to municipal approval.

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Sport Fishing	x		The following lakes have been designated under the lake trout policy: Canyon, Evans.
Tourism		x	
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

14. MISSISSAGI PROVINCIAL PARK

a. Area Description

Mississagi Provincial Park is a destination natural environment park situated approximately 23 kilometres north of the Town of Elliot Lake. This 2,880 hectare park contains one campground, several hiking trails and offers excellent angling opportunities on a number of lakes.

b. Land Use Intent

The area will continue to be managed as a natural environment park. An additional 27 to 36 campsites and 9 picnic sites will be required by the year 2000.

Activities within this natural environment park will be consistent with *Provincial Parks Policy*. Additional facilities will be developed as demand warrants.

Within Mississagi Provincial Park, the following lakes have been designated under the lake trout policy: Flack, Fullerton, Jimchrist and Semiwite. Semiwite Lake is closed to angling annually from the second Monday in September to the Thursday preceding the first Friday in June. Flack, Jimchrist and Fullerton Lakes are closed to angling annually from October 1 to the Friday preceeding the third Saturday in May. Helenbar Lake is closed to angling annually from October 1 to the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 14 - MISSISSAGI PROVINCIAL PARK

All land use activities within Mississagi Provincial Park will be governed by existing policies and Ministry guidelines.

15. MISSISSAGI PARK EXTENSION

a. Area Description

The area is situated to the east of Mississagi Provincial Park and contains approximately 1,842 hectares of land and water. Helenbar Lake is the only major lake and hiking trails associated with Mississagi Provincial Park are situated in portions of the area.

Although mining exploration has occurred in the area in the past, no ore bodies have been identified. Some small marketable timber stands are situated in the area.

b. Land Use Intent

The area is recommended for park status as an extension to the existing Mississagi Provincial Park.

Existing hiking trail systems would be incorporated with those in Mississagi Provincial Park and the park experience will be further complemented by the protection of a number of historic sites associated with the past logging era.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 15 - MISSISSAGI PARK EXTENSION

Activity	Acceptable		Recommended Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction		x	
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing		x	
Commercial Fishing		x	
Cottaging		x	
Crown Land Recreation		x	
Forestry		x	
Hunting		x	It is recommended that hunting be phased out over time.
Mining		x	
Provincial Parks	x		Recommended for park status, as an extension to Mississagi Provincial Park.
Roads		x	
Rural Residential		x	
Sport Fishing	x		It is recommended that sport fishing be permitted to continue.
Tourism		x	
Trapping		x	It is recommended that the existing trapline be phased out in a manner least harmful to the licencee. No transfer of licences will be permitted.

Activity	Acceptable		Recommended Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

16. RAWHIDE/BOLAND AREA

a. Area Description

This area includes portions of the Boland River and upper Little White River Watersheds north of Mississagi Provincial Park. Major lakes in the area include Mount Lake, McElrea Lake, Rottier Lake, Grey Trout Lake, Rawhide Lake, Sister Lake and Little Sister Lake.

This is a popular recreational area for tourists, boaters, anglers, hunters, canoeists and hikers. Existing development includes 12 summer cottages, 1 residence, 3 commercial lodges and 1 outpost camp. The Boland River is a popular canoe route, and hiking trails have been developed in the Cobre Lake portion of the area.

Forest management is occurring in several portions of the area. Forest extraction roads are presently closed to public travel.

Unless otherwise delineated, area boundaries include all lakes and rivers along the perimeter to a distance of approximately 120 metres back from the shoreline.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent of the area is to provide recreational opportunities on the lakes, rivers and trail systems and to encourage forestry and other resource activity within other portions of the area. Public access will not be permitted on forest extraction roads, in order to preserve the recreational quality of the area.

Disposition of Crown land will generally be discouraged.

Significant wildlife populations (e.g. osprey nests, heronries) and known archaeological features will be protected from adverse developments.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 16 - RAWHIDE/BOLAND AREA

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		Aggregate will be made available to the forest industry for road construction purposes along proposed forest access road corridors. Aggregate for other purposes will only be made available on sites adjacent to existing highways where no adverse effects on established recreational uses are anticipated.
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Permitted only where benefits to existing fisheries are anticipated.
Cottaging		x	On existing private land only. No Crown cottage lots will be made available.
Crown Land Recreation	x		Existing trails and canoe routes will be maintained and protected from conflicting uses.
Forestry	x		Forest management is a major use of the land base in the area. Forest harvesting operations will consider the maintenance and/or improvement of moose habitat in the Boland River area. Forest access roads will be closed to travel by the general public.

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Hunting	x		Moose habitat in the Boland River area will receive special management emphasis.
Mining	x		Developments will be encouraged to locate away from established recreational uses.
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		Public use of forest access roads in the area will not be permitted. Once harvesting and regeneration have been completed the Ministry will determine the most appropriate method of closing these roads until required for future management programs. Crossings of the Boland River will be minimized.
Rural Residential		x	On existing private land only.
Sport Fishing	x		The following lakes have been designated under the lake trout policy: Mount, Rottier, Grey Trout, Rawhide, Sister, Little Sister, Pothole, Rosemarie, Vasseau, Tenfish, Blue Sky, Cobre and Bevans.
Tourism	x		Expansions to existing lodges are permitted. Crown land will not be made available for new facilities. The outpost camp on Rawhide Lake is in contravention of the existing Ministry policy regarding such uses on high quality lake trout lakes. This site, should it be returned to the Crown in the future, will not be offered to other operators.
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

17. FLACK LAKE AREA

a. Area Description

This area is comprised of a complex of lakes and rivers in Raimbault and Nicholas Townships west of Mississagi Provincial Park. The area offers a semi-wilderness type of recreational experience with no existing road access being in place at this time.

The area receives such recreational uses as angling, hiking, canoeing and camping; timber harvesting will occur in selected stands during the 1985-2005 management period. Present development includes one commercial lodge and one private cottage on Flack Lake.

Unless otherwise delineated, the area boundaries are situated approximately 120 metres from the shoreline of the lakes and rivers along the perimeter.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to manage this area for extensive types of recreation, such as angling, canoeing, hiking and camping. Forest management will occur in the future.

Disposition of Crown land will not be permitted; road developments for forestry purposes will be encouraged to locate away from high quality recreational areas.

Significant wildlife populations (e.g. osprey nests, heronries) and known archaeological features will be protected from adverse developments.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 17 - FLACK LAKE AREA

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		Aggregate will be made available for future forest access road construction projects in the area. Aggregate sites required for other purposes will be permitted only on sites adjacent to existing highway corridors where no adverse impacts on recreational uses are anticipated.
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Permitted only where benefits to existing fisheries are anticipated.
Cottaging		x	On private land only. No Crown cottage lots will be made available.
Crown Land Recreation	x		Existing trail systems and canoe routes will be maintained.
Forestry	x		Consideration will be given to restricting timber harvesting operations to those seasons when recreational uses are minimal (e.g. winter).
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		Developments will be encouraged to locate away from areas used for recreational purposes.
Provincial Parks		x	

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Roads	x		Where feasible, winter roads will be recommended for forest access purposes. Where all-season roads are required, their construction and use will be planned to minimize conflicts with established recreational uses. Crossings of the Little White River, established trails and canoe routes will be minimized.
Rural Residential		x	
Sport Fishing	x		The following lakes have been designated under the lake trout policy: Flack, Samreid, Bobowash Dollyberry, Gibbery, Ezma, Olympus, Gaff, Centre and Crazy. Year round angling closures are in effect on the following lakes: Ezma, Gibbery, Samreid, Dollyberry, Bobowash.
Tourism	x		Expansions to existing facilities are permitted. No Crown land will be made available for additional developments or expansions.
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

18. LITTLE WHITE RIVER

a. Area Description

This area includes the Little White River/Highway 546 corridor south of the Boland River. The area offers outstanding scenery along with angling, camping, hunting and day-use opportunities. Two commercial lodges and six cottages are located in the area.

The area boundaries are generally located 120 metres from the highway and river except in areas of high relief, where the boundary is established on the skyline.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to manage the area for general recreational uses such as angling, hunting, camping and day-use. Forest management will occur in portions of the area.

Crown land disposition will generally not be permitted.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 18 - LITTLE WHITE RIVER

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		Will be permitted only where extraction operations will not detract from the scenic attributes of the area.
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing		x	
Cottaging		x	Private land only. No Crown cottage lots will be made available.
Crown Land Recreation	x		
Forestry	x		Timber harvesting activities will take into account the aesthetic quality of the area; visual disturbances associated with cutting operations will be identified and minimized. Landings for timber transporting (loading) operations along Highway 546 will be minimized.
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		Surface developments will be discouraged within 120 metres of the Little White River.
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		Road crossings of the Little White River will be minimized. Where crossings are required, the Ministry will ensure that aesthetic values are considered.
Rural Residential	x		On existing private parcels only.
Sport Fishing	x		

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Tourism	x		Expansion of existing facilities is permitted. Crown land will be made available only where no unacceptable impacts on Ministry programs are anticipated.
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		Ample viewing opportunities are available.
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

19. KIRKPATRICK LAKE AREA

a. Area Description

This area includes a large land and water area in the central portion of the District accessible by a forest access road presently closed to public travel. That portion of the area around Kirkpatrick Lake is used for commercial tourism and public recreational purposes, while the remainder of the area is used for angling, hunting and camping by District residents and tourists.

Access is restricted to means such as snowmachines, float planes and off-road vehicles. The Midway logging road system is closed to travel by the general public.

Forestry operations occur over much of this area.

Major lakes include: Kirkpatrick Lake, Townline Lake, Robb Lake, Elbow Lake, Whitebear Lake, Duval Lake, Horseshoe Lake, East Caribou Lake, Burns Lake and Endikai Lake. Many smaller lakes are scattered throughout the area.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to manage this area for general recreational purposes and forestry. Recreational uses include canoeing, angling, hunting and camping, plus established commercial tourism uses which conform to Ministry policy.

Public use of forest access roads in the area will not be permitted, and such roads will be physically closed once forestry operations have ceased. This access restriction has been implemented to ensure that high quality recreational experiences, via historical access methods, can continue over the long term.

Land disposition will generally not be permitted, except for expansion of existing facilities where no conflicts with other uses or resources are anticipated.

Significant spawning areas and wildlife populations (e.g. osprey nests, heronries) will be protected from adverse developments.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 19 - KIRKPATRICK LAKE AREA

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		Operations will be limited to the forest industry and other established uses in the area.
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Will only be permitted where benefits to existing fisheries are anticipated.
Cottaging		x	On private land only. No Crown cottage lots will be made available.
Crown Land Recreation	x		Recreational uses not requiring road access will be encouraged. No facilities (e.g. access points) will be developed.
Forestry	x		Discussion with, and input from, tourist operators will be required prior to developing cutting plans for portions of this area. The MMA policy will strictly apply to this area.
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		Developments will be encouraged to locate away from established recreational and tourism uses.

Activity	Acceptable Yes	 No	Guidelines
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		Forest extraction roads in the area will not be open to travel by the general public. Once timber harvesting operations have ceased and regeneration is established, the Ministry will determine the most appropriate method of closing the roads until required for the next period of timber harvesting.
Rural Residential		x	
Sport Fishing	x		The following lakes are designated under the lake trout policy: Robb, White Bear, Duval, Horseshoe, Kirk, Kirkpatrick, East Caribou, Castra, Narvick, Burns, Wilson, Stover, Endikai, Black, Townline, Dougall, Stringer and Regan. Horseshoe Lake is a sanctuary lake closed to fishing year round.
Tourism	x		Outpost camp operations on Robb Lake, Kirkpatrick Lake, Townline Lake, Duval Lake and East Caribou Lake are in contravention of existing Ministry policy regarding such uses on high quality lake trout lakes. These sites, should they be returned to the Crown in the future, will not be offered to other operators. In the interim, the establishments on these lakes and Elbow Lake will be protected, as much as possible, from adverse uses; White Bear Lake is also important for commercial tourism operations. Expansions to other facilities will be permitted where no adverse effects on fish and wildlife resources are anticipated.
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

20. WAKOMATA/TUNNEL SYSTEM

a. Area Description

This is a major commercial tourism and recreational area within the District. There are nine commercial lodges, with tourist use occurring on Wakomata Lake, Chub Lake, Jobammageeshig Lake, Little Pickerel Lake, Cumming's Lake, Tunnel Lake and the Mississagi River. Over 115 cottages are situated on the above lakes and Axe Lake. One commercial outpost camp is located on Damn Lake.

Recreational use is facilitated by the operation of 7 public access points.

Unless otherwise identified, the management area includes the above noted lakes and waterways and their backshores a distance of approximately 120 metres from the shoreline.

Tunnel Lake is a hydro reservoir for hydro generating purposes. Two generating stations are situated on the lake.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to manage the area to primarily benefit the commercial tourism and cottaging sectors. Day-use will also be encouraged.

A local area plan will be prepared for this area which will evaluate the extent of tourism and public recreational uses and provide a framework for guiding recreational and resource extraction activities. The local area plan is required to minimize conflicts among the tourism, public recreational and resource extraction sectors.

Requests for land disposition will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, having regard to Ministry programs and the disposition policy contained in this document. Protection of existing recreational developments will be of prime importance when evaluating any requests for disposition.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 20 - WAKOMATA/TUNNEL SYSTEM

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		Will be permitted only in areas where no adverse impacts on established recreational and tourism uses are anticipated.
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Permitted only where benefits to existing fisheries are anticipated.
Cottaging		x	Private land only. No Crown cottage lots will be made available.
Crown Land Recreation	x		The local area plan will evaluate the distribution and intensity of Crown land recreational uses in the area. Guidelines will be developed for camping and other activities.
Forestry	x		The local area plan will guide future extraction activities. Discussion with, and input from, tourist operators and cottagers will be required prior to developing cutting plans for portions of the area.
Hunting	x		

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Mining	x		Developments will be encouraged to locate away from established recreational and tourism uses.
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		New access to water will not be permitted, subject to the results of the local area plan.
Rural Residential	x		Permitted where no conflicts with existing uses are anticipated.
Sport Fishing	x		The following lakes are designated under the lake trout policy: Wakomata, Chub, Jobammageeshig, Axe and Cumming's. Tunnel Lake will be managed as a warm water fishery. The Ministry will examine the feasibility of developing additional warm water fisheries in the area's smaller lakes.
Tourism	x		Expansions to existing facilities are permitted. Crown land will be made available only where no adverse impacts on other established uses and resources are anticipated. The local area plan will evaluate the intensity and distribution of tourism uses in the area, and develop guidelines to ensure an acceptable level of use and development. The commercial outpost camp on Damn Lake will be protected, as much as possible, from conflicting uses.
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

21. UPPER THESSALON RIVER

a. Area Description

This area comprises a portion of the upper Thessalon River watershed and includes the following lakes: Horner Lake, Conacher Lake, Primeau Lake, Carpenter Lake, Darragh Lake, Sheldon Lake and adjoining waterways. The management area includes the above mentioned lakes and their backshores a distance of approximately 120 metres from the shoreline unless otherwise delineated.

This popular recreational area is used for angling, hunting, camping, day-use and tourism purposes, and is expected to receive increased use in the future. Primary users of the area are from Sault Ste. Marie and area.

Existing developments include 4 cottages, 2 outpost camps and 2 lodges.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to manage the area for recreational purposes, both public and private (tourism). Recreational features will be protected from conflicting uses. Crown land will be disposed of only for those uses which complement the recreational use of the area.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 21 - UPPER THESSALON RIVER

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		As required for projects in the area. Adequate buffers shall be established between recreational sites and extraction operations.
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Will only be permitted where benefits to existing fisheries are anticipated.
Cottaging		x	On private land only. No Crown cottage lots will be made available.
Crown Land Recreation	x		Present access and Crown land camping facilities will be monitored and evaluated to determine if additional facilities are required.
Forestry	x		The MMA policy will strictly apply to this area.
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		Developments will be encouraged to locate away from existing and potential recreational areas.
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		
Rural Residential		x	
Sport Fishing	x		The following lakes are designated under the lake trout policy: Horner, Primeau, Darragh, Sheldon.

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Tourism	x		The outpost camp operation on Sheldon Lake is in contravention of existing Ministry policy regarding such uses on high quality lake trout lakes. Should this site be returned to the Crown, it will not be offered to other operators. In the interim, this site and the outpost camp operation on Conacher Lake will be protected, as much as possible, from conflicting uses. Expansions to existing facilities will be permitted. Crown land will be made available, only where no adverse impacts on fish and wildlife resources are anticipated.
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

22. CENTRAL MISSISSAGI RIVER

a. Area Description

The area includes the central portion of the Mississagi River between Aubrey Falls and Tunnel Lake. This is one of the most scenic travel corridors in the District and receives use from anglers, canoeists, campers, tourists and day- users. It is also one of the more popular canoe routes in the District.

This area has been identified as having potential for development for the purpose of generating hydro-electric power. Ontario Hydro has carried out site investigations at Patton Post, west of Wakomata Lake, to determine the feasibility of future development.

Certain portions of the area contain timber resources allocated for harvesting during the 1985-2005 management period.

The area boundary is located approximately 120 metres back from the water's edge and along Highway 129 in the middle portion of the area. In areas of high relief, the boundary is established as the skyline.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to manage the area for recreational purposes until a more concrete commitment is made by Ontario Hydro concerning the Patton Post development, at which time the proposal will be evaluated.

Forestry will be occurring in selected sites in the area, but any harvesting operations will take into account the area's recreational resources.

Disposition of Crown land will not be permitted for long term uses, and will be considered only for short term uses which complement the management intent for the area.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 22 - CENTRAL MISSISSAGI RIVER

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		Aggregate operations will be permitted on sites where no adverse effects on established recreational uses are anticipated.
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing		x	
Cottaging		x	
Crown Land Recreation	x		Scenic qualities of the canoe route and highway corridor will be maintained as much as possible. Should Ontario Hydro proceed with development at Patton Post, the Ministry will ensure that proper consideration is given towards establishing recreational uses on the reservoir.
Forestry	x		Forest extraction operations will be planned to minimize any potential impacts on the area's aesthetic qualities.
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		Surface developments will be discouraged within 120 metres of the Mississagi River.

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		Forest access roads are permitted, but no new access to water will be developed. Road crossings of the Mississagi River will be minimized.
Rural Residential		x	
Sport Fishing	x		
Tourism		x	No facilities or developments permitted.
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		Adequate opportunities available.
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

23. MULTIPLE USE AREA

a. Area Description

This area comprises the bulk of the District's land base. Forest management and Crown land recreation are the major land uses in the area.

Scattered throughout are a wide variety of developments and uses including commercial lodges, outpost camps, cottages, canoe routes, and angling and hunting areas.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to manage the area primarily for forestry, together with Crown land recreation and commercial/private recreation. Due to the complexity of the land use pattern throughout the area, new proposals for development will require a detailed evaluation on a case by case basis to ensure compatibility with surrounding uses.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 23 - MULTIPLE USE AREA

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		
Agriculture		x	On private land only.
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Only where benefits to existing fisheries are anticipated.
Cottaging		x	Private land only. No Crown lots will be made available.
Crown Land Recreation	x		Access points presently maintained by the Ministry will be evaluated annually to determine if continued maintenance or improvements are warranted. Other uses will be monitored periodically to determine appropriate management practices.
Forestry	x		
Hunting	x		Deer management will occur in the southern portion of the area, while moose management will occur in the north. Timber harvesting techniques will be used as one means of maintaining or improving habitat requirements such as shelter and browse.
Mining	x		Exploration and development are permitted. Mining developments will be evaluated on a case by case basis to ensure environmental impacts are minimized.
Provincial Parks		x	

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Roads	x		Road proposals will be evaluated by the District Roads Committee on a case by case basis. Specific guidelines regarding construction, maintenance and abandonment may be instituted, depending on the extent of impact on Ministry programs.
Rural Residential	x		Private land only.
Sport Fishing	x		The following lakes have been designated under the lake trout policy: Alto, Applesauce, Big, Big Trout, Bijou, Boland, Campover, Cormier, Crystal, Daystar, Desayeaux, Doehead, Finn, Grebe, Gullbeak, Keelor, Lillybet, Little Quirke, Lizzotte, Lower Mace, Lucas, Mather's, McGiverin, Moccasin, Ouellette, Pathfinder, River, Rochester, Rogers, Rooster, Sesabic, Skintent, Summers, Teasdale, Toodee, Turtle, White Rock, Lake 23 (Hughson), Lake 25 (Viel), Lake 27 (Root), Lake 39 (Royal), Lake 53 (Rollins), Lake 61 (Rioux), Lake 73 (Yaremko); Bierce, Dunlop, Kindiogami, Mashagama, Mewburn, Peshu, Rackey, Ten Mile; Alexander, Allen, Archibald, Army, Beaver, Bilton, Boomerang, Dobie, Duthorne, Elbow (Albanel), Flamingo, Freddies, Friday, Gem, Green, Hammer, Harry, Hat, Johnnies, Kings, Labelle, Laderoute, Little Dobie, Long (Albanel), Long (Wiseman), Lost, Marsh, McClung, McFadden, Mountain, Navy, Nina, Norse, Rocky, Sailor Trout, South, Spring, Spud, Stone, Survey, Susan, Three, Twin, Lake 3 (Villeneuve), Lake 6 (Fabbro), Lake 8 (Slievert), Lake 9 (Piche), Lake 11 (Buckles), Lake 15 (Hembruff), Lake 16 (Hembruff), Lake 17 (Fabbro), Lake 20 (Hughson), Lake 21 (Slievert), Lake 33 (Buckles), Lake 35 (Root), Lake 41 (Otter), Lake 51 (Vance), Lake 59 (Wiseman), Lake 24 (Landriault), Lake 38 (Landriault); Cooper, Hastie, Petauguin, and Seymour. Angling is not permitted on White Rock Lake (McNie Twp.). Fisheries management efforts will be concentrated in the central portion of this area, between the Town of Elliot Lake and Rocky Island Lake, east of Highway 129.

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Tourism	x		Additional facilities (e.g. main lodges) may be permitted in some portions of the area, depending on availability of resources and prior resource commitments. Outpost camp operations on Big Lake and Pathfinder Lake are in contravention of existing Ministry policy regarding such uses on high quality lake trout lakes. These sites, should they be returned to the Crown in the future, will not be offered to other operators. In the interim, these sites and outpost camp operations on the following lakes will be protected as much as possible from adverse uses: Burnt, Threebee, Cool, Marty, Petre, Hyslop, Duck, Barr, Frobel, Claim, Slender, Rock Candy, Blue Pine, Marisea, Lake 17 (Assad), West Petre, Fox, Spike, Skirl, Oval, Wigwam, Lake 57 (Foulds), Lake 9 (Havrot), Lake 34 (Ferrier), Lake 47 (Ferrier) and Wilder Lakes. Two additional outpost camp sites will be made available on Hixon Lake and Gregory Lake; the following lakes are also important for outpost camp operations: Little North Bear (Lake 13, Sayer Twp.), Moccasin and Archibald.
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

24. AUBREY FALLS

a. Area Description

Aubrey Lake is the headpond for the Aubrey Falls Hydro-electric generating station, the uppermost generating site on the Mississagi River. Situated 80 kilometres north of the Town of Thessalon, the area is popular for angling, camping and day-use.

Aubrey Falls, one of the more spectacular cataracts in the District is accessible by a short hiking trail and is visited often by the general public.

Aubrey Lake contains a number of fine camping areas and is a popular warm water (walleye) angling lake.

b. Land Use Intent

This area is recommended for park status. Inclusion into the parks system would protect a variety of representative life and earth science features and would provide provincial park recreational opportunities as demand warrants.

It is further recommended that the existing uses of hunting, angling, trapping, and boating be permitted to continue. Additional guidelines for activities within the area may be developed in the future.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 24 - AUBREY FALLS

Activity	Acceptable		Recommended Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction		x	
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing		x	It is recommended that bait fishing be phased out in the future when the present licencee no longer requires the area. The licence is not transferable.
Commercial Fishing		x	
Cottaging		x	
Crown Land Recreation		x	
Forestry		x	
Hunting	x		It is recommended that hunting be permitted to continue.
Mining		x	
Provincial Parks	x		Recommended for park status.
Roads		x	
Rural Residential		x	
Sport Fishing	x		It is recommended that sports fishing be permitted to continue.
Tourism		x	

Activity	Acceptable		Recommended Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Trapping	x		It is recommended that the existing trapping activity be permitted to continue.
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

25. ROCKY ISLAND LAKE

a. Area Description

This area includes Rocky Island Lake and a portion of Aubrey Lake which are situated in the northern portion of the District. This is a popular angling area and is relatively undeveloped; four access points give access to the lakes.

Both lakes are reservoirs for hydro-electric generation, and have considerable water level fluctuations.

Unless otherwise delineated, the area boundaries include both lakes and their backshores a distance of approximately 120 metres from the shoreline.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to provide general recreational opportunities, such as angling, boating and camping, and to permit other uses which are compatible with the operation of these lakes as hydro reservoirs.

Permanent structural developments which require access to water or are accessed by water will generally not be permitted.

Land disposition will not be permitted on Aubrey Lake, and will be discouraged on Rocky Island Lake.

Protection of spawning areas and significant wildlife habitat (e.g. ospreys, herons) will be emphasized.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 25 - ROCKY ISLAND LAKE

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing	x		Permitted where benefits to existing fisheries are anticipated.
Cottaging		x	No Crown lots will be made available.
Crown Land Recreation	x		Existing access points will be maintained. New access to Rocky Island Lake will be evaluated as required.
Forestry	x		
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		Development will be encouraged to locate outside the area.
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		
Rural Residential		x	
Sport Fishing	x		These lakes will make a major contribution to the angling population. Aubrey Lake is managed for warm water species, while Rocky Island Lake will be managed for both warm and cold water species.

Activity	Acceptable Yes	 No	Guidelines
Tourism	x		Three outpost camps are present on Rocky Island Lake, two additional sites will be made available. Operators will be notified of the constraints which water level fluctuations may have on their operations.
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

26. NORTHEAST SECTOR

a. Area Description

This area, situated east of Highway 129 and north of the Mississagi River and Rocky Island Lake, is heavily developed for tourism purposes (outpost camps). The area is presently inaccessible by road, but an MNR forest access road now under construction will open the area for public use. Canoeing and hunting also occur at the present time, with timber harvesting slated to commence shortly.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to encourage forest management together with tourism. The outpost operations will be protected as much as possible against conflicting uses.

Although the public will have road access into the area, the Ministry will not develop access facilities (access points) on lakes and rivers, and will discourage the public from doing so.

Land disposition, except for tourist uses, will not be permitted, except along Highway 129 where other uses may be considered.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 26 - NORTHEAST SECTOR

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		For road construction only, at approved locations.
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing		x	
Cottaging		x	
Crown Land Recreation	x		No formal facilities will be developed. Passive uses such as canoeing, angling, hunting and camping will be permitted. Existing canoe routes will be maintained.
Forestry	x		Will become more active in the southern portion of the area during the 1985-2005 management period.
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		Road crossings of established canoe routes will be minimized. Road access to commercial tourism lakes will not be permitted, and access to other lakes will be discouraged.
Rural Residential		x	
Sport Fishing	x		The following lake is designated under the lake trout policy: Wagong.

Activity	Acceptable Yes	 No	Guidelines
Tourism	x		Outpost camp operations will be the major tourism use in the area. Outpost camp operations on the following lakes will be protected as much as possible, from adverse uses: Florence, Nigick, Maskuti, Gib, Cyprus, Moule, Alf, North Maskuti, Sixcee, Lake 34 (Lane), Poison, Upper Medicine, Sladen, Margaret, Embarass, Rover, Lake 74 (Parrott), Lake 2 (Parrott), Lake 25 (Parrott), Eve, Pirate, Quartz, Helen, Helen Little, Casper, Dodge, Lake 3 (Gisborn), Glade, Slater, Pipe, Hook, Emil, Grub, Stew, Burntwood, Slim, Lake 22 (Lawlor) and Yuill. Two additional outpost camp sites will be made available on Blush Lake and Beak Lake; Wimpy Lake, Wagong Lake and Navy Lake are also important for outpost camp operations. Additional facilities may be permitted where the resource base is capable of accommodating additional use, and where conflicts with the forest industry are not anticipated.
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

27. MISSISSAGI RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK

a. Area Description

This area is located to the east of Rocky Island Lake and includes the Mississagi River upstream to the District boundary. The park continues through the Espanola District into Chapleau District to Biscotasing on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

This popular canoe route also offers angling and hunting opportunities throughout. The isolated nature of the park is one of the main reasons for its popularity.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to continue managing the area as a waterway park. No land uses will be permitted which may jeopardize existing park values. No additional road access to the park and no road crossings of the Mississagi River will be permitted.

The one existing outpost camp operation in Assad Township will be permitted to remain.

Hunting is permitted in Mississagi River Provincial Park according to existing seasons and regulations.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 27 - MISSISSAGI RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK

All land use activities within Mississagi River Provincial Park will be governed by existing policies and Ministry guidelines.

28. BARK LAKE

a. Area Description

This area adjoins the Mississagi River Provincial Park in the northeast portion of the District. Bark Lake offers a semiwilderness type of recreational experience which is complementary to the park, and adjoins a similar area to the east in Espanola District.

Angling, canoeing and hunting are the most popular activities; timber harvesting will occur in the area during the 1985-2005 management period.

Unless otherwise delineated, the area boundaries include Bark Lake and the backshore to a distance of approximately 120 metres from the shoreline.

b. Land Use Intent

The intent is to manage the area primarily for general recreational uses such as canoeing, angling and camping, and to permit forest management.

Disposition of Crown land on Bark Lake will not be permitted.

Significant wildlife populations (e.g. osprey nests, heronries) and known archaeological features will be protected from adverse developments.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 28 - BARK LAKE

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Aggregate Extraction	x		Extraction will be restricted to sites adjacent to approved forest access roads, for road construction purposes only, where no conflicts with recreational use are anticipated.
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing	x		
Commercial Fishing		x	
Cottaging		x	
Crown Land Recreation	x		Emphasis to be placed on uses such as canoeing, angling and camping. No access facilities will be developed.
Forestry	x		The MMA policy will strictly apply to this area.
Hunting	x		
Mining	x		Exploration is permitted. Surface developments will be discouraged within 120 metres of the lake.
Provincial Parks		x	
Roads	x		Road construction will be minimized and may be subject to regulations on location and use. No road access to water will be permitted.
Rural Residential		x	
Sport Fishing	x		Bark Lake is a designated lake trout lake.

Activity	Acceptable		Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Tourism	x		The commercial outpost on Bark Lake is in contravention of the existing Ministry policy regarding such uses on high quality lake trout lakes. This site, should it be returned to the Crown in the future, will not be offered to other operators.
Trapping	x		
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	

E: application

1. METHODS OF APPLICATION

Application of the *Blind River District Land Use Guidelines* will be accomplished through the regular programs and activities of the Ministry such as:

- the planning and approval of specific Ministry development projects;
- the input to, and review of, municipal official plans, zoning by-laws, plans of subdivision, consent applications and zoning orders under the *Planning Act*;
- the review of specific development proposals by other proponents on both Crown and private land;
- the selective application of restricted area orders, under the *Public Lands Act* in areas without municipal organization;
- through specific conditions, e.g. road and modified management area guidelines, as conditions in permits, licences, leases, easements, etc., issued under the authority of various Provincial acts, e.g. - the *Public Lands Act*, the *Mining Act*, the *Crown Timber Act*, etc.;
- liaison and cooperation with other Government Ministries and agencies, such as the Ministries of Transportation and Communication, Environment, Tourism and Recreation, Northern Affairs, Municipal Affairs and Housing and conservation authorities; and,
- education and extension programs with private landowners, municipalities and interest groups.

It is not intended that all targets be achieved immediately. The intent is to aim for that level of achievement over the next 20 years.

a. Resource Management Plans

Ministry land use guidelines essentially indicate where certain activities might be carried out on Crown land and under what general conditions. Resource management plans, e.g. forest management and operating plans, indicate how a specific activity will be carried out in the specified area and how other land uses will be considered.

All Ministry resource management plans must have due regard for the intent of the approved *Land Use Guidelines*.

b. Municipal Planning

The *Land Use Guidelines* have no legal status. The control of land use on private land in municipalities is exercised by municipalities or the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing under the authority of the *Planning Act*.

The Ministry recognizes that private landowners, other government agencies, municipalities, conservation authorities and interest groups are key partners in any effort to achieve effective and integrated resource management. The Ministry of Natural Resources will continue to work with these groups, especially with municipalities, through the Ministry's plan input and review program to ensure that natural resource values are considered in local planning documents. The *Blind River District Land Use Guidelines* may serve as one of the sources of information for Ministry involvement in the municipal planning process.

Where the *Land Use Guidelines* indicate the Ministry wishes to try to infuence particular land uses on private land in organized municipalities in order to work towards the achievement of Ministry objectives, this will be undertaken in consultation with municipal officials and private landowners. At this time the needs of other users will be taken into consideration.

There will be occasions when the Ministry feels that certain land uses or proposed developments on private land, while in conformity with municipal planning documents, will have a negative impact on Ministry programs or interests. In such situations the Ministry will attempt to resolve the situation through discussions with the proponent, the municipality and MMAH. If the

Ministry is not satisfied with the results of the negotiations they may consider taking further action under the procedures provided for by the *Planning Act* and in accordance with MNR policy.

In municipalities containing Crown land there could be situations where municipal planning documents may or may not permit different land uses on Crown land than those that are indicated as acceptable on Crown land in the *Land Use Guidelines*. Where this happens, and it appears that a possible land use conflict might arise, the Ministry will consider taking further action under the procedures provided for by the *Planning Act*.

c. Other Government Agencies

In addition to providing internal direction for the integration of Ministry programs, the *Land Use Guidelines* are also useful in highlighting to the public, other agencies and levels of government the varied responsibilities of the Ministry of Natural Resources and will serve as the basis for Ministry participation in the land use planning of others. The Ministry will work closely with other agencies and groups when carrying out its programs. In some instances other agencies may assist the Ministry with application of the *Land Use Guidelines*.

There will also be occasions where the Ministry and others, another government agency for example, will have different intentions for the same area. When such situations are identified the Ministry will enter into negotiations with the other agency to arrive at an acceptable solution.

d. Application of Restricted Area or Zoning Orders

(i) Under the *Public Lands Act* In areas without municipal organization, the Ministry of Natural Resources may apply a restricted area order under the *Public Lands Act* to control land use on private land when it is considered that a specific use(s) would or may impact adversely on Ministry programs.

(ii) Under the *Planning Act* In areas without municipal organization the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing may apply a zoning order under the *Planning Act*. Such orders have a purpose and effect similar to zoning by-laws prepared by councils in organized municipalities.

In addition to the input to and review of these orders, the Ministry of Natural Resources might request the imposition of an order by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing or amendment to an existing order.

NOTES

(1) As defined by the Canada Land Inventory. No Class 1 agricultural capability lands exist in the District.

(2) For the Crown Land Recreation Policy, a resident is defined as a resident of Ontario; a non-resident is a person living outside of the Province of Ontario.

(3) Northern Ontario as defined in the **Tourism Act.**

(4) Non-residents have a wide variety of options from which to select a base of operations while recreating on Crown land. They include:

(a) Provincial/National Park Campground;
(b) Commercial campground, motel, hotel, cabin;
(c) Licenced tourist outfitting establishment including base and outpost camps;
(d) Cottage owned by the non-resident;
(e) Cottage owned by a friend or relative of the non-resident;
(f) Crown land - designated access points and undeveloped and undesignated areas;
(g) Crown land - under authorization of a land use permit.

(5) Back-country travel refers to overnight travel through wilderness and non-wilderness parks by backpacking or canoe tripping.

(6) Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest are areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features which have been identified as having values related to protection, natural heritage appreciation, scientific study, or education. They need not become Nature Reserves under the **Parks Act**, *and their identification on private land does not indicate any intent of the Government to acquire land or to restrain or prevent any private use of land.*

(7) The existing treaty and aboriginal rights as referenced in the **Canadian Constitution** *will be further defined at future constitutional conferences.*

APPENDICES

A: public consultation

1. PHASE I

The first phase of the planning program began with the collection and evaluation of the background information necessary for developing resource policies and establishing planning issues.

The public consultation period for this phase of the planning program began in September 1978 when the document *Background Information - Blind River District* was released to the public for review, and ended at the end of March 1982, on completion of the *Northeastern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan.*

During the review period, the public was requested to provide comments on the accuracy of the background information and to review the proposed policies which were being developed.

Highlights of the public consultation process which occurred during this period are itemized in the table A-1.

Public input regarding this first phase of the planning program was not extensive. Comments which were received related primarily to the accuracy and level of detail of the background information and delineation of critical areas, and the identification of planning issues within the District.

The planning mailing list contained over 240 names, representing a good cross-section of interests. Over 65 copies of the background information document were distributed, and it is estimated that over 150 people attended the various presentations and meetings.

TABLE A-1 PUBLIC CONSULTATION — PHASE I

Date	Item	Details
Sept. 1978	Background Information Report — Blind River District	Initially 45 copies were distributed to local interest groups, politicians, municipalities, Indian Reserves and industries. An additional 20 copies were distributed over the course of the Phase I period.
Sept. 1978	Newspaper Article	Sault Star "MNR Requests Input on Land Use Program".
Aug. 1979	Open House	Elliot Lake; publicizing SLUP and District Planning.
April 1980	District News Release	"Planning". Introduction to Land Use Planning.
June 1980	Letters	To Federal and Provincial members of parliament, introducing the planning program.
June 1980	Information Package	Over 350 mailed out to local residents, groups, industry and municipalities, introducing planning program.
June 1980	Newspaper Article	In the Outdoors, supplement to Elliot Lake Standard — "District Plan Will Guide Future Land Uses".
June 1980	Public Display	At Elliot Lake Uranium Festival.
Aug. 1980	Presentation	To Lake Duborne Cottager's Association; general presentation on land use planning.
Aug. 1980	Newspaper Article	Elliot Lake Standard — "MNR Invites Public Input".
Sept. 1980	Presentation	Blind River Council; general presentation on land use planning.
Sept. 1980	Presentation	Town of Thessalon Planning Board; general presention on land use planning.
Sept. 1980	Information Package	Mailed to over 190 parties represented on mailing list; regarding status of planning program.
Oct. 1980	District News Release	"District Land Use Plan Progresses".
Nov. 1980 Dec. 1980	Interest Group Meetings	7 separate meetings with:Government Liaison Committee, Municipalities, Planning Boards, Hunt and Fish Clubs, Timber Operators, Commercial Fishermen, Gravel Operators, Commercial Tourist Operators. -Presenting and requesting input on critical areas and policy proposals.
Feb. 1981	Information Package	Status report on Planning Program mailed to 240 people on mailing list.
Aug. 1981	Information Package	Status report on Planning Program mailed to 240 people on mailing list.

2. PHASE II

The second phase of the planning program began with the approval of the *Northeastern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan* in April 1982 and continued until the end of the review period for the proposed policy and planning options document on July 17, 1982. *Proposed Policy and Planning Options, Blind River District* was released to the public in early June of 1982, allowing approximately six weeks for review. Although the bulk of responses were received at the District office prior to the review deadline, a number of late responses were received. All responses, including those received after the due date, were evaluated and considered in the preparation of the *Land Use Guidelines*.

In the review of this phase of the planning program, the public was requested to evaluate the proposed policies for all program areas and to make recommendations on the acceptability of the planning options. All comments relating to any aspect of the planning program were accepted. Highlights of the public consultation process which occurred during this period are itemized in table A-2.

TABLE A-2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION — PHASE II

Date	Item	Details
May 18, 1982	District News Release	Details on upcoming release of Phase II document and open houses, sent to Planning mailing list. (280 people).
May 20, 1982	Newspaper Advertisement	Sault Star — Provincial Ad publicizing Open Houses
May 25, 1982	Newspaper Article	North Shore Sentinel — "District Land Use Plan Going to the Public".
May 25, 1982	Newspaper Advertisement	Sault Star — Regional Ad publicizing Open Houses.
May 26, 1982	Newspaper Article	Elliot Lake Standard — "Ministry Seeks Input For Land Use Program".
May 26, 1982	Newspaper Advertisement	Elliot Lake Standard — Regional Ad publicizing open houses.
May 27, 1982	Newspaper Article	Sault Star — "Ministry seeks Input on New Land Use Plan".
May 28, 1982	District News Release	"Land Use Planning Open Houses".
June 2-4, 1982	Proposed Policy and Planning Options — Blind River District.	75 copies of full document and 220 copies of summary document mailed out.
June 3, 1982	Newspaper Article	Sault Star — "MNR Favouring Recreational Uses".
June 4, 1982	Newspaper Advertisement	Sault Star, Elliot Lake Standard — publicizing Open Houses.
June 7, 1982	Newspaper Article	Sault Star — "MNR Begins Plan Review in White River Today".
June 8-10, 1982	Radio Advertisement	CKNR/CJNR — Elliot Lake/Blind River. Publicizing Open Houses.
June 8, 1982	Newspaper Article	North Shore Sentinel — "Land Use Open House".
June 8, 1982	Newspaper Advertisement	Sault Star — Publicizing Open Houses.
June 9, 1982	Newspaper Articles	Elliot Lake Standard — "Open Houses Set", "Two Open Houses Set For The North Shore", "Local Office Releases Plan for District".
June 9, 1982	Newspaper Advertisement	Elliot Lake Standard — Publicizing Open Houses.
June 9, 1982	Open House	Iron Bridge.
June 10, 1982	Open House	Elliot Lake.
June 12, 1982	Newspaper Article	Sault Star — "Land Use Planning — Blazing a Trail for the Future".
June 15, 1982	Newspaper Article	North Shore Sentinel — "MNR Presents Plan".
June 19, 1982	Newspaper Article	Sault Star — "MNR Convinced by Public's Silence".
June 28, 1982	Letter	To tourist operators, following up original contact.
June 30, 1982	District News Release	
July 7, 1982	Newspaper Article	Elliot Lake Standard — "Input Sought".
July 8, 1982	Newspaper Article	Sault Star — "Comments Requested".
July 9, 1982	Newspaper Article	Elliot Lake Standard — "Park Proposed for River".
July 15, 1982	Newsletter	Regarding proposed lake trout lake Policy.
July 21, 1982	Newspaper Article	Elliot Lake Standard — "Big Change in Store in Natural Resources Management".

A total of 119 complete *Proposed Policy and Planning Options* documents and 236 summary documents were distributed during the review period. Attendance at the open houses totalled 78, with 35 attending at Iron Bridge and 43 at Elliot Lake.

Comment sheets were enclosed with each planning document and were available at the open houses. The following is a breakdown of responses by type:

- Briefs 3
- Letters 31
- Open House Comment Sheets 36
- Document Comment Sheets 38
- File memos, telephone calls, etc. 11
- Total 119.

Some people/groups responded more than once; the 119 responses were submitted by 102 individual respondents.

Table A-3 indicates the public input received by category and origin, correct to January 1, 1983.

Complete public consultation binders, which contain additional detail on public input including copies of all submissions received, are available for public viewing at the Ministry of Natural Resources office in Blind River, at the Ministry's main office reading room in Queen's Park and at the Legislative Library.

TABLE A-3 INPUT RECEIVED BY CATEGORY AND ORIGIN

origin category	District Planning Area	Northeastern Planning Region	Provincial	Other	Total
Members of Parliament	2	1	0	0	3
Advisory Committees	0	0	0	0	0
Agricultural Industry	0	0	0	0	0
Anglers/Hunters Groups	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial Fishing Industry	1	0	0	0	1
Conservation Authorities	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental/ Parks Groups	0	0	3	0	3
Forestry Industry	7	0	1	0	8
Government Agencies	0	5	2	0	7
Individuals	51	3	4	0	58
Mining Industry	1	1	1	0	3
Municipalities	4	0	0	0	4
Native Groups	1	0	0	0	1
Tourist Industry	10	0	0	0	10
Trapping Industry	0	0	0	0	0
Other Groups	1	0	3	0	4
TOTAL	**78**	**10**	**14**	**0**	**102**

B: rationale for designation of prime lake trout lakes

This appendix summarizes the Ministry's rationale and basis for designating specific lake trout lakes in the *Land Use Guidelines.*

1. RATIONALE

Ontario has 2,000 lake trout lakes. This represents the *majority of the world's accessible lake trout lakes.* The Northeastern Administrative Region contains approximately 750 of these; the Blind River District has 230 known lake trout lakes.

As a result of their economic importance, attractiveness to sport fishermen and sensitivity to stress, the Ministry investigated ways to protect the lake trout resource.

The initial concern which was raised related to the development of cottage subdivisions and the potential impact of such developments on lake trout lakes in terms of possible environmental degradation and increases in fishing pressure. Concerns were also expressed about the impact of improved access (roads and snowmobiles) on exploitation in these lakes. In addition, the potential impacts of acid precipitation were beginning to be understood.

As a result of these factors, regional policy was developed for the classification of lake trout lakes. This enabled the Ministry to undertake land management and fisheries management efforts in some rational order of priority.

The Ministry was concerned with providing a diversity of angler opportunities. One of those opportunities (a very important one) is the chance to fish lake trout, a species which has become synonymous with clean water and wilderness. It is this image and the diversity of opportunity that makes the Northeastern Region attractive to tourists. Development on a lake is inconsistent with this image.

2. CLASSIFICATION

The lakes have been categorized into A, B and C based on the quality of the fishery and the lake trout habitat in the lake. General considerations used in classifying the lakes are as follows:

Type A lakes

- must have natural reproduction (may be supplemented by stocking);
- should have large area of water under the 18 metre contour (lake trout summer habitat); and,
- should have excellent water quality throughout the water column all year.

Type B lakes

- may have some natural reproduction or may be entirely maintained by planting;
- may have less water volume available for summer lake trout habitat; and,
- may have poorer water quality at some times of year (example, lower pH, some oxygen depletion in late summer, etc.).

Type C lakes

- these lakes have ceased to be managed primarily as lake trout lakes although some lake trout may still be present.

The A and B categories were further divided into A1, A2 and B1, B2 based on land tenure. The A2 and B2 groups are less than 100 percent Crown land.

3. LAND USE APPROACH

All Class A and B lake trout lakes are designated in the *Land Use Guidelines.*

Type A1 and B1 lakes will be managed exclusively for lake trout. No additional access or development will be permitted. A modified management area will be estabablished on all A1 and B1 lakes.

Type A2 and B2 lakes will be managed for lake trout, but consideration will be given to other objectives on a case by case basis. Development should be designed to have a minimal impact on the aquatic habitat, i.e. shoreline setback, etc. A modified management area will be established on all A2 and B2 lakes.

Type C lakes are not designated in the *Land Use Guidelines* and may be considered for other uses as required, such as commercial outpost camp lakes. Appendix C lists the District lake trout lakes by classification.

C: lake trout lakes

The following is a list of known lake trout lakes within the District, broken down by classification. The list is valid as of January 1, 1983.

A1 Lakes

Alto Lake — Buckles Twp.
Bevans Lake — Sagard Twp.
Bay Lake — Timmermans Twp.
Big Lake — Kamichisitit Twp.
Big Trout Lake — Slievert Twp.
Bijou Lake — Otter Twp.
Black Lake — LeCaron Twp.
Blue Sky Lake — Sagard Twp.
Bobowash Lake — Raimbault Twp.
Boland Lake — Fabbro Twp.
Boundary Lake — Juillette Twp.
Campover Lake — Piche Twp.
Canyon Lake — Joubin Twp.
Cobre Lake — Sagard Twp.
Coffee Lake — Timmermans Twp.
Cormier Lake — Buckles Twp.
Cream Lake — Timmermans Twp.
Crystal Lake — Tweedle Twp.
Daystar Lake — Winkler Twp.
Desayeaux Lake — Otter Twp.
Doehead Lake — Winkler Twp.
Dollyberry Lake — Raimbault Twp.
Dubbelewe Lake — Yaremko Twp.
Duval Lake — Slievert Twp.
East Caribou Lake — Varley Twp.
Ezma Lake — Nicholas Twp.
Finn Lake — Simons Twp.
Fullerton Lake — Raimbault Twp.
Gibbery Lake — Raimbault Twp.
Grebe Lake — Hughson Twp.
Grey Trout Lake — Viel Twp.
Gullbeak Lake — Bolger Twp.
Horseshoe Lake — LeCaron Twp.
Jimchrist Lake — Raimbault Twp.
Keelor Lake — Kamichisitit Twp.
Kirk Lake — LeCaron Twp.
Lear Lake — Scarfe Twp.
Lillybet Lake — Nicholas Twp.
Little Quirke lake — Bouck Twp.
Little Sister Lake — Piche Twp.
Lizotte Lake — Joubin Twp.
Lower Mace — Jogues Twp.
Lucas Lake — Buckles Twp.
Mather's Lake — Bolger Twp.
McGiverin Lake — McGiverin Twp.
Moccasin Lake — Landriault Twp.
Olympus Lake — Nicholas Twp.
Ouellette Lake — Buckles Twp.
Pathfinder Lake — Jogues Twp.
Peak Lake — Mack Twp.
Quimby Lake — Bolger Twp.
Rawhide Lake — Viel Twp.
River Lake — Thorp Twp.
Robb Lake — Sayer Twp.
Rochester Lake — Buckles Twp.
Rogers Lake — Jackson Twp.
Rooster Lake — Hughson Twp.
Rosemarie Lake — Piche Twp.
Samreid Lake — Raimbault Twp.
Semiwite Lake — Hembruff Twp.
Sesabic Lake — Renwick Twp.
Sister Lake — Piche Twp.
Skintent Lake — Sturgeon Twp.
Summers Lake — Beange Twp.
Teasdale Lake — Buckles Twp.
Tenfish Lake — Sagard Twp.
Toodee Lake — Simons Twp.
Townline Lake — Sayer Twp.
Turtle Lake — Spragge Twp.
Vasseau Lake — Sagard Twp.
White Bear Lake — Sayer Twp.
White Rock Lake — McNie Twp.
Wilson Lake — Varley Twp.
Lake #23 — Hughson Twp.
Lake #25 — Viel Twp.
Lake #27 — Root Twp.
Lake #39 (Cross) — Royal Twp.
Lake #53 (Boundary) — Rollins Twp.
Lake #61 — Rioux Twp.
Lake #73 — Yaremko Twp.

A2 Lakes

Bierce Lake — Thorp Twp.
Big Basswood Lake — Day Twp.
Big Moon Lake — Timmermans Twp.
Burns Lake — Varley Twp.
Chiblow Lake — Scarfe Twp.
Cumming Lake — Gould Twp.
Darragh Lake — Otter Twp.
Dunlop Lake — Beange Twp.
Elliot Lake — Gunterman Twp.
Emerald Lake — Mack Twp.
Endikai Lake — Albanel Twp.
Evans Lake — Bouck Twp.
Flack Lake — Raimbault Twp.
Granary Lake — Mack Twp.
Horner Lake — Shingwaukonce Twp.
Kindiogami Lake — Wiseman Twp.
Kirkpatrick Lake — Sayer Twp.
Lauzon Lake — Striker Twp.
Little Chiblow Lake — Montgomery Twp.
Mashagama Lake — Renwick Twp.
Matinenda Lake — Mack Twp.
Mewburn Lake — Winkler Twp.
Peshu Lake — Root Twp.
Primeau Lake — Shingwaukonce Twp.
Rackey Lake — Kamichisitit Twp.
Slipper Lake — Gunterman Twp.
Ten Mile Lake — Beange Twp.
Wakomata Lake — Casson Twp.
Williamson Lake — Montgomery Twp.

B1 Lakes

Alexander Lake — Hughson Twp.
Allen Lake — Hughson Twp.
Applesauce Lake — Hughson Twp.
Archibald Lake — Fould Twp.
Army Lake — Yaremko Twp.
Bark Lake — Assad Twp.
Beecher Lake — Montgomery Twp.
Beaver Lake — Beange Twp.
Bilton Lake — Viel Twp.
Boomerang Lake — Winkler Twp.
Castra Lake — Varley Twp.
Centre Lake — Nicholas Twp.
Crazy Lake — Nicholas Twp.
Crosby Lake — Montgomery Twp.
Depot Lake — Esten Twp.
Dobie Lake — Albanel Twp.
Dougall Lake — LeCaron Twp.
Duck Lake — Juillette Twp.
Duthorne Lake — Bouck Twp.
Elbow Lake — Albanel Twp.
Flamingo Lake — Foulds Twp.
Freddies Lake — Wiseman Twp.
Friday Lake — Royal Twp.
Gaff Lake — Nicholas Twp.
Gem Lake — Beange Twp.
Grandeur Lake — Esten Twp.
Green Lake — Beange Twp.
Greg Lake — Juillette Twp.
Hammer Lake — Piche Twp.
Hat Lake — Poulin Twp.
Hess Lake — Juillette Twp.
Johnnies Lake — Winkler Twp.
Kings Lake — Proctor Twp.
Labelle Lake — Root Twp.
Laderoute Lake — Spragge Twp.
Little Dobie Lake — Albanel Twp.
Little Moon Lake — Timmermans Twp.
Long Lake — Albanel Twp.
Long Lake — Wiseman Twp.
McClung Lake — Villeneuve Twp.
McFadden Lake — Long Twp.
Mountain Lake — Beange Twp.
Narvick Lake — Varley Twp.
Navy Lake — Fabbro Twp.
Nina Lake — Hughson Twp.
Norse Lake — Mack Twp.
Pothole Lake — Piche Twp.
Regan Lake — Albanel Twp.
Rocky Lake — Kamichisitit Twp.
Rottier Lake — Viel Twp.
Sailor Trout Lake — Vance Twp.
Sheldon Lake — Morin Twp.
South Lake — Beange Twp.
Spring Lake — Beange Twp.
Spud Lake — Havrot Twp.
Stone Lake — Beange Twp.
Stover Lake — Sayer Twp.
Stringer Lake — Varley Twp.
Survey Lake — Hembruff Twp.
Susan Lake — Hughson Twp.
Three Lakes — Wardle Twp.
Twin Lake — Vance Twp.
Wagong Lake — Gisborn Twp.
Lake #3 — Villeneuve Twp.
Lake #6 (Star) — Fabbro Twp.
Lake #8 — Slievert Twp.
Lake #9 — Piche Twp.
Lake #11 — Buckles Twp.
Lake #15 (Wolfe) — Hembruff Twp.
Lake #16 (Polar Bear) — Hembruff Twp.
Lake #17 (Brewer) — Fabbro Twp.
Lake #20 — Hughson Twp.
Lake #21 — Slievert Twp.
Lake #33 — Buckles Twp.
Lake #35 — Root Twp.
Lake #41 — Otter Twp.
Lake #51 — Vance Twp.
Lake #59 (S Lake) — Wiseman Twp.

Lost Lake — Foulds Twp.
Marsh Lake — Beange Twp.
McCarthy Lake — Proctor Twp.
Lake #24 — Landriault Twp.
Lake #38 — Landriault Twp.

B2 Lakes

Axe Lake — Gould Twp.
Chub Lake — Gould Twp.
Constance Lake — Parkinson Twp.
Cooper Lake — Haughton Twp.
Esten Lake — Esten Twp.
Hastie Lake — Long Twp.
Jobammageeshig Lake — Gould Twp.
Lake Duborne — Striker Twp.
Mount Lake — Sagard Twp.
Petauguin Lake — Galbraith Twp.
Seymour Lake — Rioux Twp.
Woodrow Lake — Wells Twp.

C Lakes

Bergen Lake — Varley Twp.
Beyond Lake — Worton Twp.
Bridge Lake — Varley Twp.
Byrnes Lake — Bridgland Twp.
Canoe Lake — Scarfe Twp.
East Twin Lake — Varley Twp.
Elbow Lake — Sayer Twp.
Gusty Lake — Beange Twp.
Havilah Lake — Galbraith Twp.
Highland Lake — Jackson Twp.
Little Pickerel Lake — Grasett Twp.
Moonshine Lake — Vance Twp.
Muskwash Lake — Winkler Twp.
Pipe Lake — Hughson Twp.
Portelance Lake — Tweedle Twp.
Regal Lake — Varley Twp.
Rocky Island Lake — Royal Twp.
Seabrook Lake — Maeck Twp.
Shoepack Lake — Landriault Twp.
Skookum Lake — Galbraith Twp.
Skunk Lake — Viel Twp.
Toobee Lake — Thorp Twp.
Toosee Lake — Slievert Twp.
Waterhole Lake — Varley Twp.
Wilkie Lake — Raimbault Twp.
Lake #36 (Boundary) — LeCaron Twp.

Total Trout Lakes

A1	80
A2	29
B1	83
B2	12
C	26
	230

D: access points

Overnight camping is a necessary and desirable facet of the Crown land recreational experience. Under the *Public Lands Act*, camping on Crown lands is not a legal right, but a privilege. This camping privilege may be controlled to a greater or lesser extent from place to place and from time to time depending on what is perceived as being in the best interests of the public as a whole.

At the present time, there are no restrictions to non-commercial camping on unposted Crown lands in the Blind River District, providing no permanent structures are involved, providing there are no conflicts with other legitimate users and providing that access routes are not blocked.

Overnight camping is not permitted on Class I and II public access points listed in table D-1. On Class III access points, camping is restricted to a maximum of 21 days.

Some changes are expected to the existing situation in keeping with the recently approved Crown Land Recreation Policy.

The above list represents only those access points maintained by the Ministry on a regular basis. Many other access points, presently unmaintained, exist throughout the District.

TABLE D-1 MINISTRY MAINTAINED PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS

Class/Use	Name	Location
Class I: Boat Launching Only, No Camping	Jobammageeshig Lake	Gould Twp.
	Cumming's Lake	Gould Twp.
	Endikai Lake	Albanel Twp.
	Hooverville	Gould Twp. (Tunnel Lake)
	Tunnel (at Cumming's)	Gould Twp.
	Darrell Lake	Patton Twp.
	Lauzon West	Striker Twp.
	Dunlop Lake	Bouck Twp.
	Aubrey Falls	Root Twp.
	Matinenda Lake	Scarfe Twp.
	Magog	Striker Twp. (Granary Lake)
Class II: Boat Launching and/or picnicking No camping	Bridgland	Bridgland Twp. (Burrows L.)
	McCreights	Kirkwood Twp.
	Wakwekobi	Kirkwood Twp. (Big Basswood Lake)
	Carpenter Lake	Kane Twp.
	Hoeburg	Long Twp. (Lake Huron)
	Cobre Lake	Sagard Twp.
	Lauzon East	Long Twp.
	Depot Lake	Proctor Twp.
	Mount Lake	Sagard Twp.
	Constance Lake	Parkinson Twp.
	Bearhead Lake	Scarfe Twp.
	Chiblow Lake	Scarfe Twp.
Class III: Boat Launching and/or picnicking and/or overnight camping	Tapps	Gould Twp. (Tunnel Lake)
	Haskins	Gould Twp. (Tunnel Lake)
	Shaw Dam Lake	Bridgland Twp.
	Goldenburg	Wells Twp. (Mississagi River)
	Wakomata Lake	Casson Twp.
	Bay Lake	Tweedle Twp.
	Esker Lake	Yaremko Twp.
	Camp 4	Dagle Twp.
	Wenebegon River	Lane Twp.
	Wenebegon Bridge	Root Twp.
	Mississagi River	Rollins Twp.
	Kindiogami Lake	Wiseman Twp.
	Too See Lake	Slievert Twp.
	Cedar Lake	Poulin Twp.
	Square Lake	Tweedle Twp.
	Portelance Lake	Yaremko Twp.
	Mississagi River	Shulman Twp.
	Rapid River	Sturgeon Twp.
	Block Dam	Villeneuve Twp. (Rocky Island Lake)
	Rocky Island Lake	Wardle Twp.
	Peshu Lake	Martel Twp.
	Rouelle	Royal Twp. (Rocky Island Lake)

E: tourism lakes

Tourism lakes include lakes which have been approved for outpost camp operations and those lakes which receive similar tourism uses, but do not have approved outpost camp sites.

The lakes listed in this appendix are not to be considered as exclusive tourism areas; the lakes do, however, comprise an important economic component of the tourism industry. The Ministry recognizes that future projects occurring in areas near these lakes must be planned and undertaken in a manner which will avoid, as much as possible, creating any conflicts which could result in a serious deterioration of the area's commercial recreational quality.

a. Approved Outpost Camp Sites

1. Florence Lake - Grossman Twp.
2. Gregory Lake - Gaunt Twp. (unoccupied)
3. Nigick Lake - Morningstar Twp.
4. Burnt Lake - Royal Twp.
5. Threebee Lake - Wiseman Twp.
6. Cool Lake - Schrivener Twp.
7. Marty Lake - Assad Twp.
8. Bark Lake - Assad Twp.*
9. Petre Lake - Assad Twp.
10. Bark Lake - Assad Twp.*
11. Rawhide Lake - Viel Twp.*
12. Hyslop Lake - Simons Twp.
13. Duck Lake - Rioux Twp.
14. Barr Lake - Wagg Twp.
15. Townline Lake - Sayer Twp.*
16. Robb Lake - Sayer Twp.*
17. Onedee Lake - Sayer Twp.
18. Kirkpatrick Lake - LeCaron Twp.*
19. Duval Lake - Slievert Twp.*
20. Kirkpatrick Lake - LeCaron Twp.*
21. Sheldon Lake - Morin Twp.*
22. Conacher Laker - Shingwaukonce Twp.
23. Frobel Lake - Casson Twp.
24. East Caribou Lake - Varley Twp.*
25. East Caribou Lake - Varley Twp.*
26. Big Lake - Kamichisitit Twp.*
27. Pathfinder Lake - Jogues Twp.*
28. Claim Lake - Jogues Twp.
29. Pepler Lake - Juillette Twp.
30. Howard Lake - Montgomery Twp.
31. Matinenda Lake - Timmermans Twp.
32. Rocky Island Lake - Wardle Twp.
33. Rocky Island Lake - Ruston Twp. (unoccupied)
34. Rocky Island Lake - Royal Twp.
35. Rocky Island Lake - Royal Twp.
36. Maskuti Lake - Meen Twp.
37. Seven Mile Bay - Meen Twp. (unoccupied)
38. Slender Lake - Wiseman Twp.
39. Gib Lake - Leluk Twp.
40. Cyprus Lake - Lawlor Twp.
41. Moule Lake - Lawlor Twp.
42. Alf Lake - Laughren Twp.
43. Slim Lake - Nuttal Twp.
44. North Maskuti Lake - Laughren Twp.
45. Sixcee Lake - Laughren Twp.
46. Lake 43 - Lane Twp.
47. Rock Candy Lake - Lane Twp.
48. Upper Medicine Lake - Grossman Twp.
49. Sladen Lake - Grossman Twp.
50. Margaret Lake - Grosman Twp.
51. Embarass Lake - Gisborn Twp.
52. Rover Lake - Gisborn Twp.
53. Beak Lake - Gaunt Twp. (unoccupied)
54. Bluepine Lake - Schrivener Twp.
55. Poison Lake - Schrivener Twp.
56. Lake 74 - Parrot Twp.
57. Lake 3 - Parrot Twp. (unoccupied)
58. Eve Lake - Morningstar Twp.
59. Pirate Lake - Leluk Twp.
60. Quartz Lake - Leluk Twp.
61. Lake 22 - Lawlor Twp.
62. Helen Lake - Lawlor Twp.
63. Casper Lake - Grossman Twp.
64. Dodge Lake - Gisborn Twp.
65. Blush Lake - Gisborn Twp.
66. Lake 3 - Gisborn Twp.
67. Damn Lake - Casson Twp.
68. Burntwood Lake - Gaunt Twp.
69. Glade Lake - Gaunt Twp.
70. Slater Lake - Gisborn Twp.
71. Pipe Lake - Lawlor Twp.
72. Hook Lake - Laughren Twp.
73. Yuill Lake - Gisborn Twp.
74. Marisea Lake - Maeck Twp.

75. Hixon Lake - Maeck Twp. (unoccupied)
76. Emil Lake - Meen Twp.
77. Grub Lake - Nuttal Twp.
78. Stew Lake - Nuttal Twp.
79. Lake 17 - Assad Twp.
80. West Petre Lake - Assad Twp.
81. Fox Lake - Schrivener Twp.
82. Spike Lake - Timbrell Twp.
83. Lake 25 - Parrot Twp.
84. Skirl Lake - Jackson Twp.
85. Oval Lake - Worton Twp.
86. Wigwam Lake - Shingwaukonce Twp.
87. Lake 57 - Foulds Twp.
88. Lake 9 - Havrot Twp.
89. Lake 34 - Ferrier Twp.
90. Lake 47 - Ferrier Twp.
91. Wilder Lake - Ferrier Twp.

As noted above, six approved sites are presently unoccupied. These sites will be made available for outpost camp operations as demand warrants.

Those thirteen lakes noted with a star (*) are high quality lake trout lakes. Outpost camp operations on these lakes are not in conformity with existing Ministry policy. Should the outpost camp sites on these lakes be returned to the Crown in the future, they will not be reissued to other operators. Otherwise, the outposts will continue to be permitted, and transfers from one operator to another will be considered acceptable.

A number of other lakes within the Blind River District are used on an informal basis by the tourist industry from time to time. Although these lakes are not approved for commercial tourism development, their use should be taken into consideration when undertaking resource management projects in the area. These lakes are:

- White Bear Lake - Sayer Twp.
- Little North Bear Lake - Sayer Twp.
- Wimpy Lake - Leluk Twp.
- Moccasin Lake - Landriault Twp.
- Wagong Lake - Gisborn Twp.
- Navy Lake - Fabbro Twp.
- Archibald Lake - Foulds Twp.

When planning and undertaking projects in areas near the tourism lakes identified in this appendix, the Ministry will apply the provisions of the access roads policy and modified management area policy, as discussed in Section II of these *Land Use Guidelines*, as required.

b. Rationale for the Identification of Tourism Lakes

Some lakes have historical use by the commercial tourism industry, particularly lakes having outpost camp operations, are becoming influenced to an increasingly greater degree by resource extraction activities. Logging, mineral exploration and construction of hydro-electric transmission lines, which are usually accompanied by well developed road systems, have enabled the public to achieve greater ease of access into areas considered isolated in the past.

The isolated nature of the majority of the commercial outpost camp lakes is considered a most important aspect of commercial recreation by the tourism industry. Continued resource extraction activities may result in undesired economic impacts to outpost operators, should uncontrolled access to these lakes be provided.

The first step in offering some level of protection to the outpost operations is to identify those lakes which presently are used by the industry for tourism purposes. These lakes are identified in the previous section of this appendix. The rationale used for identifying these lakes is:

- all lakes having outpost camp sites have been identified; and,
- certain lakes having use by the tourist industry on an informal basis have also been identified. Although these lakes are not available for outpost camp operations, they are used regularly by the tourism industry, and are considered important for outpost camp operations situated on adjacent lakes.

The second step is to evaluate the impact which any proposed resource development activity may have on the operation. This will vary from lake to lake depending upon the level of development resulting from a particular project. For example, outpost camp operations on Rocky Island Lake and Matinenda Lake have operated successfully despite high levels of public use and cottaging. Additional access and development on such lakes is not likely to create adverse impacts on the operations. On more isolated lakes, minor changes, such as increased access in proximity to the lake, may result in serious impacts to the operator. Application of the access roads and modified management area policies will be necessary to alleviate potential conflicts in most instances.

A third level of protection offered to tourism lakes is through the delineation of management areas within the document, where specific guidelines have been developed to guide land use activities in broad areas where tourism uses are considered of prime importance. These areas are discussed in Section II D of this document.

Additional tourism lakes may be identified by the District Manager in the future, and existing tourism lakes may be removed. Any changes, however, will be undertaken through the basic rationale stated previously, and incorporated into the *Land Use Guidelines*.

F: forest management agreements

The Ministry's forestry program is one of the major means of implementing the government's commitment to strong economic development in Ontario. The forest management agreements (FMA) were developed to ensure a productive forest land base in perpetuity for the long-term health of the forest products industry. As with parks system planning, there is a relationship between these agreements and land use planning.

The Ministry undertook a review of the FMA process in 1981 which allowed it to make some technical adjustments. The review revealed that the processes used to deal with land use issues arising from FMA's are generally sound, and provided the opportunity to involve the public in the process.

Land use guidelines once in place, will provide the base from which FMA's will be developed.

For those FMA's which were completed or being negotiated prior to the completion of land use guidelines, District staff initiated development of a general land use map covering the FMA area.

This land use map showed those areas of the existing licence where forestry operations will be generally permitted. They also indicated where, to ensure the continuing success of resource management programs, forestry operations may be restricted (e.g. moose habitat), and where they may be prohibited (e.g. shoreline reserves along canoe routes).

The map was developed from direction provided by the *Strategic Land Use Plan*, the information provided through the District land use planning process to date, and Ministry staff's general knowledge of the areas. It formed the basis of negotiation with the company for areas to be excluded from the FMA or subject to special management prescriptions.

The candidate FMA area maps and relevant background data was then made available for public review and comment. After public review and comment, the Ministry and the company carried out any necessary revisions to the FMA area, if required.

G: existing angling restrictions

EXISTING ANGLING RESTRICTIONS IN BLIND RIVER DISTRICT

Lake/River	Restricted Dates	Reasons
Ezma Gibbery Samreid Dollyberry Bobowash Horseshoe	Closed to angling year round	Previously barren lakes stocked with lake trout. Angling restrictions in effect to permit stocked fish to become established and successfully reproduce.
White Rock	Closed year round	Lake to be utilized as source of stock for 'Big Sound' lake trout to be planted in Lake Huron.
Chiblow Little Chiblow Basswood Helenbar	Closed from Oct. 1 to the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April	Protect lake trout (brook trout in Helenbar Lake) from excessive winter pressure.
Flack Jimchrist Fullerton Rawhide	Closed from Oct. 1 to the Friday preceding the 3rd Saturday in May	Protect lake trout from excessive winter angling pressure.
Mississagi River	Closed from 2nd Saturday in March to the 3rd Friday in May	Protect pre-spawning walleye from excessive angling.
Streams flowing into/out of Kirkpatrick Lake (first .8 km)	Closed from May 1 to May 25	To protect spawning rainbow trout from excessive angling.
West Little White River between Robb Lake and Elbow Lake	Closed from May 1 to May 25	To protect spawning rainbow trout from excessive angling.
Semiwite Lake	Closed from 2nd Monday in September to Thursday preceding the first Friday in June	To protect lake trout from excessive winter angling.

GLOSSARY

Back-Country Recreation
This includes canoe tripping and backpacking in remote areas, accessible only on foot, or by manually powered water craft.

Candidate Park
An area designated in Ministry of Natural Resources land use guidelines which may be given official status as a park at some time in the future.

Capability
The natural ability of an area to provide continuous opportunity for benefits under an assumed level of management.

Capacity
The upper limit to which an area of land, or water, may be used or developed without an undesirable change taking place in the environment. Also called carrying capacity.

Crown Land
All land (including land under water) held by the Province, including land which has never been sold and land which has been reacquired.

Deer Yard
An area having available shelter and food, in which deer are usually found during the winter.

Forestry Purposes
Includes the production of wood and wood products, provision of proper environmental conditions for wildlife, protection against floods and erosion, recreation, and protection and production of water supplies.

Goal
A general purpose to which the Ministry aspires.

Habitat
The place or type of site where an animal or plant naturally or normally lives.

Historical Theme
A common activity or procedure involving a substantial portion of the contemporary population within a defined time span and geographic area.

Historical Theme Segment
A theme segment represents an important phase of a distinctive activity which took place in a specific time and place within Ontario.

Integrated Resource Management
The coordination of resource management programs to ensure that conflicts are minimized and that management which would benefit several programs is encouraged. Integrated management encourages multiple use, but recognizes that in some circumstances management of areas for a single purpose may be necessary.

Interim Use
Land and resource use and management practices which are permitted to occur over a period of time prior to the initiation of another identified use.

Land Use Guidelines
A document which displays direction concerning the use of land and water in a defined area. It identifies where and how the Ministry intends to achieve its objectives in a specific District through the use of Crown land and through influencing the use of private land.

Land Use Planning
A process which culminates in a direction regarding the use of land.

Management
The judicious use of means to achieve ends. Management may have various levels of intensity.

Multiple Use
A resource management or planning concept applied to very large areas to indicate that all basic uses are accommodated. Typically, two or more uses may occur on the same general area at the same time or in sequence.

Natural Environment Park
An area incorporating outstanding recreational landscapes with representative natural features and historical resources which provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.

Nature Reserve Park
An area selected to represent the distinctive natural habitats and landforms of the Province which are protected for educational and research purposes to benefit present and future generations.

Objective
A quantifiable end result to be achieved.

Operational Plan
A part of a resource management plan stating the extent (includes human and financial resources) of all work of any nature to be carried out during one or more years of the management period.

Opportunity
A measure of recreation supply. It is used to describe the number of times a resource or facility can be used (occasions of use) in a given time period. An opportunity is considered not to be greater than one day.

Policy
A decision concerning the objectives to be achieved and the means of achieving them.

Production Forest Land
Those lower capability agricultural lands, both forested and open and higher capability lands with existing forest cover, from which the Ministry hopes to achieve their forestry targets.

Program
An activity undertaken by the Ministry to provide a service or manage a particular resource.

Public Land
Any land owned or administered by a public body or agency. It includes Federal, Provincial and municipally owned lands and lands held by agencies such as parks commissions and conservation authorities.

Resource Management
The control and coordination of the use of resources to achieve specific ends. Commonly applied in particular to natural resources.

Resource Management Plan
A plan by which the policies, objectives and targets usually of an individual program (except in the case of an integrated resource management plan) are implemented for a specific resource.

Sequential Use
Where one use is followed by another in planned sequence.

Sport Fish
For the purpose of this document sport fish are the top predator species sought after by anglers.

Strategy
Planning actions or measures to achieve a desired end.

Sustained Yield
A concept which refers to the maximum level of resource harvest which can be sustained on a long-term basis without causing detrimental effects on the resource base.

Target
A quantified end to be achieved or completed by a specific date.

Waterway Park
An area of outstanding recreational water routes and representative natural features and historical resources which provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.

Wetlands
Lands which are permanently or seasonally covered with shallow water and where distinctive soil conditions, plant and wildlife communities develop. These include wetland forests (swamps), wetland thickets, marshes, bogs and fens.

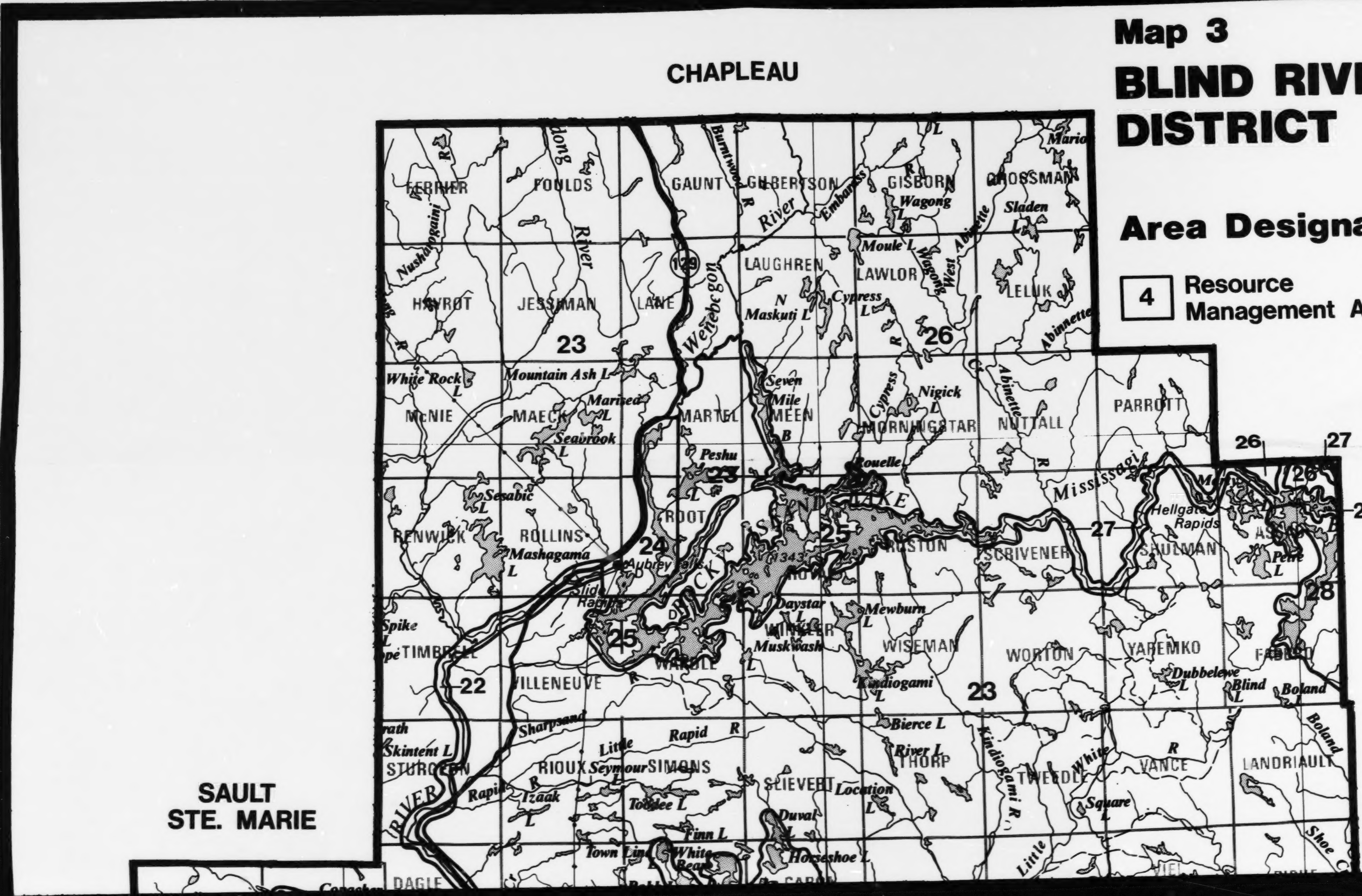
Work Plan
A plan prepared annually which defines what management activities are to be undertaken for that year.

Map 3

BLIND RIVER DISTRICT

Area Designation

4 Resource Management Area



CHAPLEAU
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GILBERTSON
GISBORN
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MARTEL
MEEN
MORNINGSTAR
NUTTALL
PARROTT
RENWICK
ROLLINS
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SCRIVENER
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VILLENEUVE
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White Rock L
Mountain Ash L
Marised L
Seabrook L
Seven Mile B
Nigick L
Peshu
Rouelle
Mississagi
Hellgate Rapids
Sesabic L
Mashagama L
Aubrey Falls
Slide Rapids
Daystar L
Mewburn L
Muskwash L
Kindiogami L
Dubbelewe L
Blind L
Boland L
Spike L
Skintent L
Sharpsand
Little Rapid R
Bierce L
River L
Kindiogami R
White
Square L
Boland
Rapid
Izaak L
Seymour L
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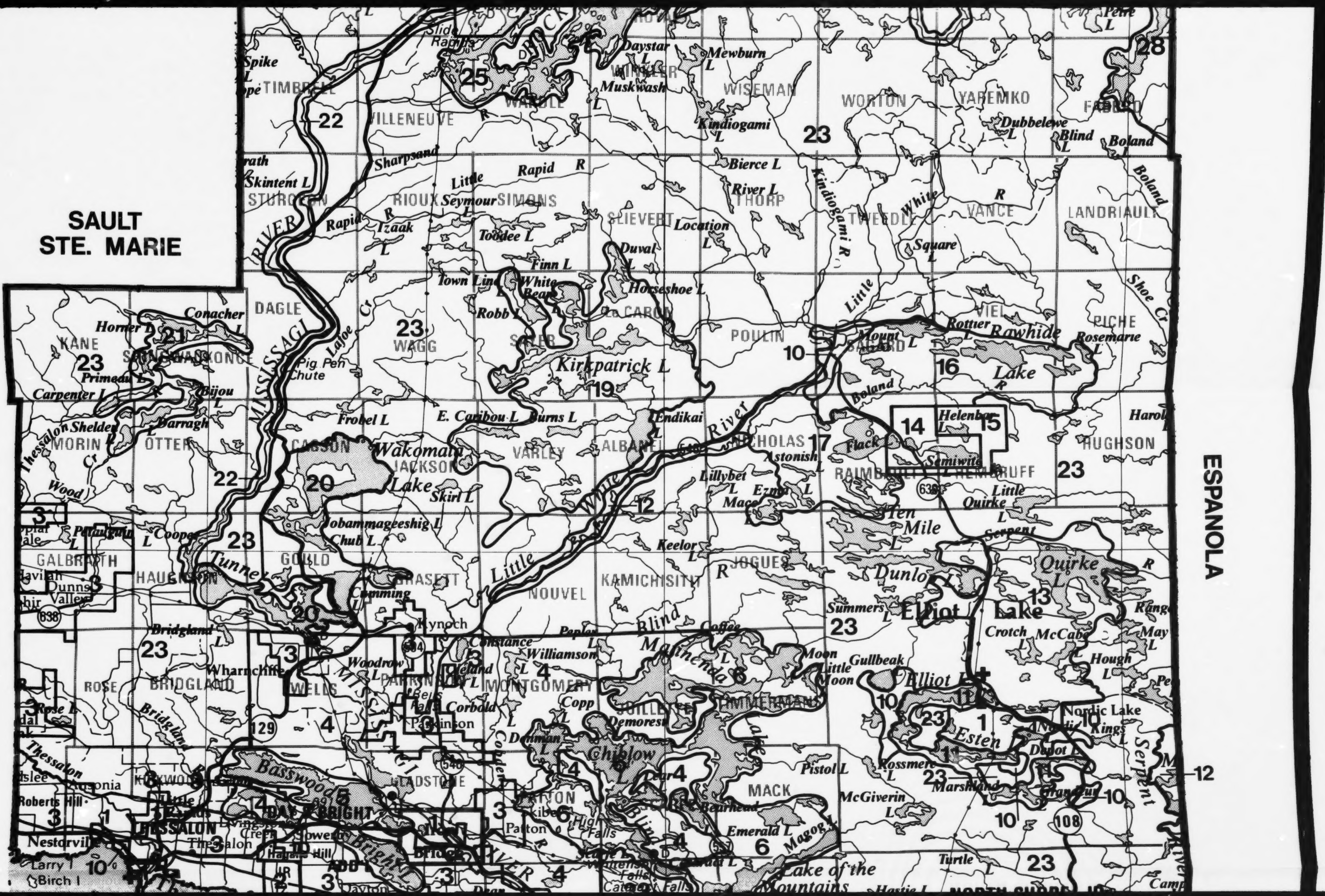
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RAIMBAULT
HUGHSON
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GALBRAITH
HAUGHTON
GOULD
GRASETT
NOUVEL
KAMICHISITIT
JOGUES
ROSE
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WELLS
PARKINSON
MONTGOMERY
GUILLET
TIMMERMANS
GLADSTONE
PATTON
MACK
DAY & BRIGHT
THESSALON
MISSISSAGI RIVER
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Wakomata Lake
Rawhide Lake
Ten Mile L
Dunlop L
Quirke L
Elliot Lake
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Nordic Lake
Chiblow
Matinenda L
Basswood L
Lake of the Mountains
Tunnel L
Little White River
Blind R
Serpent R
Boland R
Rapid R
Kindiogami R
Little Rapid R
Sharpsand
Slide Rapids
Pig Pen Chute
Lafoe Cr
Thessalon R
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Toodee L
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Conacher L
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Darragh L
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Chub L
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Wharncliffe
Woodrow L
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Pettit L
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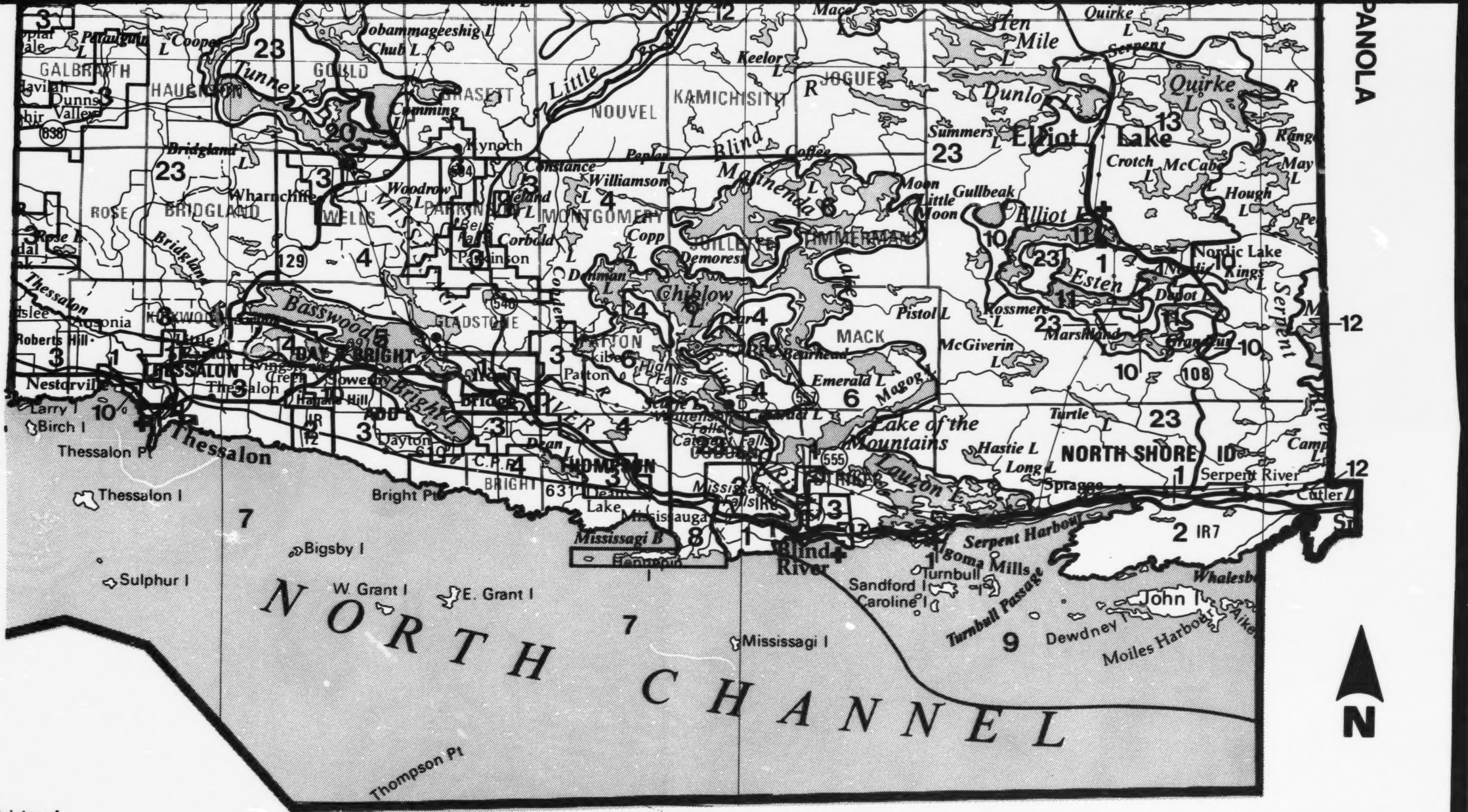
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Bearhead
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Roberts Hill
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Basswood L
GLADSTONE
Chiblow L
Bear L
PATTON
Kibee
High Falls
Patton
Little Rapids
THESSALON
Nestorville
Thessalon
Livingstone Creek
DAY & BRIGHT
Sowerby
Bright L
Bridge
Haggart Hill
ADDINGTON
Dayton
Larry I
Birch I
Thessalon Pt
Thessalon
Thessalon I
C.P.R.
BRIGHT
Dean L
Dean Lake
THOMPSON
Mississauga
Mississagi B
Mississagi R
Falls
COBDEN
Lake of the Mountains
Lauzon L
Turtle L
Hastie L
Long L
NORTH SHORE ID
Spragge
Serpent River
Cutler
Camp L
Bright Pt
Bigsby I
Sulphur I
W. Grant I
E. Grant I
Blind River
Serpent Harbour
Algoma Mills
Sandford I
Caroline I
Turnbull I
Turnbull Passage
John I
Whalesback
Dewdney I
Moiles Harbour
Mississagi I
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Ministry of Natural Resources

Ontario

POOR

QUALITY

ORIGINAL